

Total laundry solutions

Electrolux Laundry Systems, part of the Electrolux Group, is a leading supplier of professional laundry solutions worldwide. With a comprehensive service offering and a complete range of equipment, Electrolux Laundry Systems tailor solutions to the specific needs of individual laundries—from the laundries of apartment houses, hotels and health care institutions to coin-operated laundrettes and commercial laundry operations.

The company has three manufacturing entities in Denmark, France and Sweden. The headquarters is located in Denmark and the equipment is sold under the brand name of Electrolux.

Backed by long experience and deep process know-how, the equipment is designed and built to high quality and safety standards and with respect for the environment. That's why Electrolux Laundry Systems is certified according to ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 standards.

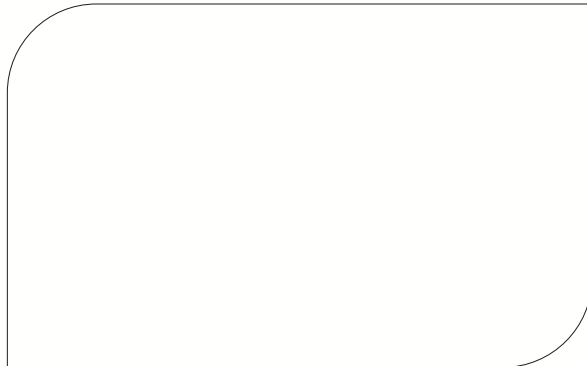
Customers around the world are served by 23 national sales companies and a network of 120 importers.

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 **The Electrolux Group.** The world's No.1 choice.

The Electrolux Group is the world's largest producer of powered appliances for kitchen, cleaning and outdoor use. More than 55 million Electrolux Group products (such as refrigerators, coolers, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, chain saws and lawn mowers) are sold each year to a value of approx. USD 14 billion in more than 150 countries around the world.

Your local Electrolux Laundry Systems office:



 **Electrolux**

ELECTROLUX LAUNDRY SYSTEMS



Mini Guide to hygienic laundry practices

based on the RABC system/EN 14065

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ELECTROLUX LAUNDRY SYSTEMS



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Hygienic laundry



Laundry is found throughout a hospital: uniforms, bed linen, catering articles, surgical dress, cleaning items (i.e. mops), patient clothing, etc. Laundry plays an essential role in patient comfort whilst protecting employees in their place of work.

Laundry is a potential carrier of nosocomial infections. It is therefore vital to control its flow. Special measures must be taken to ensure hygiene. The laundry items themselves must not pose a threat to health and remain innocuous at every stage of their use and treatment.

An inherent part of the process is to control the efficiency of washing techniques utilised in laundries whilst identifying the potential for clean laundry to become contaminated. Dirty laundry can spread germs to other areas. This requires an in-depth understanding of laundry flows, the correct use of fabrics suitable to the task and working practices which ensure the employees are aware of how their every day actions can impact the laundry operation.

Hygiene control is vital in ensuring high quality practices with a systematic approach including processes, risk assesment, preventative measures and quality assurance procedures that are evaluated and measured at regular intervals. In addition, any service provider should be selected according to specifications and defined hygiene standards.

In the current climate whereby hospitals require proof and must document the quality of the processes used, the laundry flow implemented for assurances of hygiene must ensure permanent control systems are in place to minimise and prevent the risk of nosocomial infections.

With this in mind, please take the time to read this “Mini Guide to hygienic laundry practices based on the RABC system*/EN 14065” and trust you will find it of great assistance.

* Risk Analysis Bio-contamination Control

Storing and sorting dirty laundry

Measures recommended under European Guidelines

European norm no. EN 14065 recommends that dirty laundry be delivered to the laundry daily in textile bags as follows:

Large flat laundry:

One colour for bags containing sheets, under sheets, all types of textile, all sizes.

Small flat laundry:

One colour for bags containing pillow cases and bolster cases, all catering laundry, kitchen towels and aprons, handkerchieves, hospital gowns, nightdresses and pyjamas.

Laundry to be tumble-dried:

One colour for bags containing all terries including flannels, and body linen exposed to high temperatures.

All other laundry:

One colour for bags containing bed linen, clothing, furnishing materials.

Staff uniforms and "at risk" laundry are excluded from the above pre-sorting process.



- Collect textiles separately
- Do not store dirty laundry for long periods
- Do not bring dirty laundry into contact with clean laundry during transport



Advice from professionals



Risk: The packing does not have the expected barrier properties (risk of infection)

- Any packing or wrapping system, other than dirty laundry collection bags, specially designed for this purpose is to be excluded (e.g. bin bags, sheets knotted to form bundles).
- Do not use RED bags, as this colour is only for transferring "at risk" laundry.
- Only use textile bags. Plastic bags are more expensive and encourage mould to form which can seriously alter the textile weft.
- The colour of the bag must indicate its contents, not its origin. The origin will be written on the handle at the bottom of the bag.
- Laundry bags must always be closed correctly once they are full.
- Always use clean collection bags that close properly and are in good condition.
- For ergonomic reasons, do not fill bags more than two-thirds full.
- The maximum ideal load should not exceed 10 kg.



Risk: Cross contamination (risk of infection)

- Dirty laundry must be packed without it coming into contact with clean laundry.
- Mixed trolleys (clean and dirty) are to be excluded: use lightweight collection trolleys that are easy to clean and disinfect.
- Closing the collection bags must not generate aero-biocontamination: the type of collection trolley used (with or without cover, with or without foot pedal...) must be chosen in accordance with the risks of aero-biocontamination and cross contamination.
- The dirty laundry collection bag support trolley must be regularly cleaned and disinfected.
- The soiled linen area must be at lower air pressure compared to the clean linen area.

Washing

Measures recommended under European Guidelines



- Guarantee a complete decontamination of the washed linen
- Respect the service life of the fibres
- Develop a specific approach for “at risk” laundry



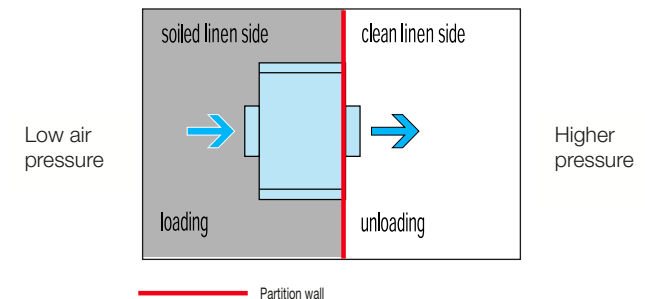
Advice from professionals

- Install washing equipment in a barrier configuration to prevent any dirty laundry being loaded into the washing machines and coming into contact with the clean laundry being taken out of the machines
- Adapt the detergents to the soilness to be processed
- Respect the wash programmes (pH, hardness of the water, temperature, water levels, time laundry/detergent are in contact, machine filling ratio)
- Use bactericidal products on all textiles washed at 60° or below
- Wash textiles per families: a textile family is not made up of articles of the same texture but articles with the same finishing

For example:

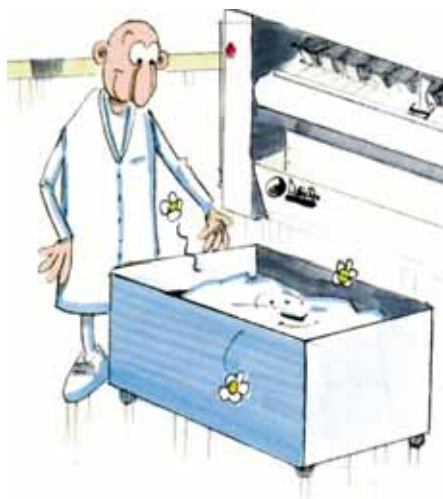
If you wash a cotton pillowcase and a cotton terry towel, you actually mix two different textile families. When the laundry is taken out of the machine, the pillowcase is processed directly into the ironer whereas the terry towel goes into the tumble dryer. As the two finishing are different, the laundry operator will have to sort the clean laundry. This should be avoided at all costs.

Washing equipment in a barrier configuration



Transfer from washing to drying

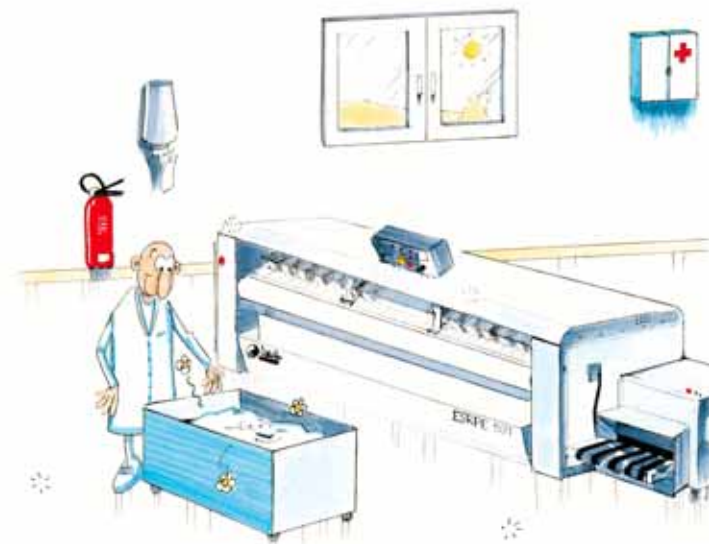
Measures recommended under European Guidelines



- Do not store for long periods
- Do not store in unsuitable places
- Do not handle at the wrong time



Advice from professionals



- Just in time production
- Do not store laundry at intermediate points
- Never sort soiled laundry in the clean area

Drying and finishing

Measures recommended under European Guidelines



- Ensure correct temperatures and contact times are adhered to during the finishing (ironing) process
- Ensure that filling ratios in the drying process are not exceeded
- Reduce the number of times the clean linen is handled from the time it is taken out of the washer until it leaves the laundry room (a maximum of four handlings)



Advice from professionals

- Work in tight flow per textile family
- Store directly what is processed
- Procedure recommended for large flat linen in cotton and poly cotton:
 - Unloading of the barrier washer
 - Direct feeding into the ironer
 - Direct storing into the department (or patient's) trolley or wardrobe
- Procedure recommended for laundry to be tumble-dried:
 - Unloading of the barrier washer
 - Drying into tumble dryer (never on hangers)
 - Manual folding
 - Direct storing into the department trolley
- Procedure recommended for laundry to be ironed:
 - Unloading of the barrier washer
 - Pre-drying
 - Ironing
 - Manual folding, direct storing without intermediate storing
- Use the tumble dryers very strictly.
- Dryers consume energy: be careful not to lose heat by leaving the door open after use:

Do not leave the door open after unloading and before loading the next batch (10° lost each minute the door is open).

Clean the lint/fluff filter regularly during the day. Clean filters reduce energy use.

Do not over-dry laundry if it is to be ironed after drying. If it is too dry, it will need re-wetting for finishing.

Make tests of drying time for each type of article and write down on a board fixed on the dryer those drying times per textile family.

Respect the filling ratio: if laundry piles up against the loading door, it means that the dryer is overloaded. The laundry must rotate freely all over the drum.

Do not hesitate to let the dryer run empty for a few minutes between two loads. It costs less and saves time since you will not have to heat it up at the next load.

Never leave hot laundry in the dryer at the end of the working day (fire hazard). It is better to leave wet laundry overnight and dry it the next morning.

Use the "cooling" button for the last cycle of the day.

Protection

Measures recommended under European Guidelines



- Protect the laundry by storing in mobile trolleys
- Follow the advised storing and delivery times



Advice from professionals

- Cover with plastic microporous film and/or keep in trolleys or closed cabinets.



Risk: Clean laundry may be contaminated during these operations.

- Regularly disinfect and clean premises where clean laundry is stored.
- Keep premises separate from areas where dirty laundry is in transit.
- Close the doors to stop air turbulence. Ensure that the air pressure in the clean area is higher than the dirty area.
- Regularly disinfect and clean trolleys and/or cabinets used to transport clean laundry.
- Repairing, cleaning and disinfecting trolley covers is easier if an extra set is available.
- Wrap clean laundry into microporous plastic film.
- Re-wash all the clean laundry back from the care departments, unless it is wrapped and the wrapping has not been damaged.

Transport

Measures recommended under European Guidelines



- Means of transport reserved exclusively for clean laundry
- Materials that can be decontaminated
- Follow the advised flows to avoid clean laundry coming into contact with dirty laundry



Advice from professionals

- Appropriate lorry reserved exclusively for delivery of clean laundry.
- For transport vehicles, an internal disinfection procedure should be adopted.
- Respect the immobilisation intervals.



Risk: Transport conditions can favour contamination of clean laundry.

- Prepare clean laundry deliveries in covered trolleys or closed cabinets.
- Deliver trolleys or cabinets directly to the linen room of the receiving department.
- Laundry must be wrapped appropriately for the risks and transported in closed vehicles used exclusively for this purpose.
- If the clean and dirty laundry flows meet, it is necessary to implement an airtight wrapping for the clean and the dirty linen.
- A cleaning and disinfection plan must be made in order to define how the surfaces of vehicles and equipment used for transporting and delivering clean laundry are to be maintained (lorry box and cab, trolleys or cabinets, covers...)