



Infection Prevention and Staff Scrubs

Home-laundered scrubs at the start of a day have the same amount of organisms as scrubs worn all day. Leave your work at work!

Several studies over the last 15 years show that wearing scrubs when leaving the hospital and the home-laundering of staff scrubs can create a risk of cross contamination at home, in the community and on return to the health facility. Results of a 2012 Washington State study of nurses' uniforms showed that the average bacteria colony growth per square inch was 1,246 for day and 5,795 for the night shift. In fact MRSA was found on 70 percent of the uniforms. While not the practice in the United States, there are several countries including Canada, Belgium and Australia, that have prohibited wearing hospital clothing outside the workplace and required workplaces to provide clean scrubs at the healthcare site to prevent the spread of infectious materials.

Beyond not offering a controlled and regulated environment found in a commercial cleaner like Crown Health Care Laundry, when washing scrubs at home, many staff are not taking or may not be aware of the recommended special steps to ensure proper cleaning. A 2015 study at De Montfort University showed that 49 percent of hospital staff did not wash their uniforms at the recommended 140-degree temperature.

Other steps to mitigate contagions like COVID including placing the worn garments in a bag before entering the home, washing the garments separately from family clothing, using detergent and a bleach, avoiding short cycles, and immediately placing the item in the warmest dryer cycle recommended by the garment manufacturer. For these reasons, many professional health organizations recommend that scrub attire should be laundered by an accredited commercial laundry facility.

Crown Healthcare Laundry uses a dual-accredited, commercial cleaning process that ensures that patient care and staff linens pose no danger of transmitting illness. Healthcare staff should change back into their personal clothing and dispose of scrubs in the blue soiled linen bag when leaving their workplace, *NOT in a locker.*



We are your infection control partner

Crown Health Care Laundry Services' processing facilities hold the unique distinction of being certified by both the Textile Rental Services Association and the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council.



What do TRSA and HLAC certifications mean to you?



You can have confidence that Crown is meeting the highest standards in the industry:

- ✓ Our facilities are designed and maintained to provide for the health and safety of your staff and patients.
- ✓ Processes are in place to ensure our healthcare linens are hygienically clean. Every step from handling and transporting, laundering and finishing, to customer service, meet the highest industry standards.
- ✓ Our products meet mandated, regulated and suggested standards for laundry detergents, water temperatures, bleach rinses, maintenance of equipment and laundry items including:
 - AORN perioperative standards and recommended practices
 - ANSI/AAMI surgical pack assembly room and activities guidelines for reusable surgical textiles processing
 - OSHA-required processes, including Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Standards
 - Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Interpretive Guidance for Laundry and Infection Control
 - CDC's suggested guidelines of using low-temperature laundry cycles along with the combination of sufficiently high-water temperatures, heavy mechanical action, appropriate chemical dosing, and significant pH drop, to provide hygienically clean textiles



Crown Plant Design & Standards

Our laundry processing practices are the highest and most current available to the industry as demonstrated by our dual industry certification. Our well-built plants are staffed with qualified, trained personnel who know how to maintain operations in a clean and aseptic manner. Crown Health Care Laundry Services ensures:

- Proper soil and clean linen separation
- Tested machines
- Documented equipment performance records
- Proof of wash chemistry
- Rewash rate monitoring
- Textile product quality grading
- Microbial content of clean laundry in CFU
- Consistent test protocols

AdvaCare™ Disinfectant

Crown Laundry Services uses AdvaCare™ Disinfectant, an EPA-registered laundry disinfectant oxidizer with kill claims against eleven microorganisms of concern with healthcare linen. This includes *C. difficile*; the number one U.S. healthcare-associated infectious microorganism. AdvaCare™ Disinfectant outperforms chlorine and peroxide for disinfecting, whiteness, extending linen life, sustainability and overall effectiveness.

"Study Shows Bacterial Contamination Associated with Home-Laundered Surgical Scrubs is Significantly Greater Than Other Options," Infection Control Today, Jan. 8, 2010; Nicola Merrifield, "Half of Hospital Staff Failing to Adequately Wash Uniforms at Home," Nursing Times (U.K.), March 31, 2015; "Nurses' Uniforms: How Many Bacteria Do They Carry After One Shift?" Journal of Public Health and Epidemiology, Vol. 4, December 2012.