



Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Textile Washing Guidance

1. Applications discussed below apply to new AAMI level 1 and 2 single-use/disposable gowns provided to healthcare professionals for use in an emergency-need situation such as SARS-Cov2/COVID-19 during this period where enforcement of regulations has been temporarily set aside.
2. This guidance provides for washing of a disposable gown in a commercial and/or on-premise healthcare laundry environment. This guidance **DOES NOT** claim this is an appropriate action for FDA Class II/AAMI Level 3 and 4 surgical apparel.
3. The steps for washing the gown include:
 - a. Neutral detergent designed for the industrial laundry environment
 - b. Load sizes are not weight based – base load volume on 80% full to visual capacity
 - c. Optional chlorine or oxygen bleach (50 – 150ppm) at max temperature of 140°F
 - d. Rinse with sour and optional bac-stat to achieve neutral pH
 - e. Low to medium level extract to retain the integrity of the gown
4. Dry gowns at a **maximum** outlet temperature of 120°F, and only for a time necessary to adequately dry the products. Contact your laundry maintenance professional and/or equipment manufacturer for the appropriate steps to reduce outlet temperature control before drying to avoid drying with excessive heat. Cuffs on gowns will require drying up to 15 minutes. Products without cuffs can be dried in 3-5 minutes with minimal/no heat. **Exceeding 140 degrees may cause the product to deteriorate, melt or dissolve causing product failure and equipment malfunction.**
5. Post washing: visual inspection/review to eliminate delivery of gowns to the customer that are (a) inappropriate for the wash process such as those with a polypropylene lining/barrier that would separate in the wash process, (b) obvious stains, tears or rips, or unsuitable or missing tie/closure capability.
6. When cooled to room temperature, package clean gowns by loosely rolling or folding, place in clean bulk bags/pillow cases for distribution to healthcare personnel for use at their discretion.
7. Appropriate labeling for billing and delivery - identify for healthcare providers for decision-making for use to combat the current shortage.
 - a. Suggested wording: ***Contains disposable repurposed gowns that have been washed to meet hygienically clean healthcare standards and are provided for use as an emergency commodity as a cover gown only. They SHOULD NOT BE USED as protection in an aerosolizing procedure.***

Processor should use their discretion relative to their equipment, capacity and customer demand. The above guidelines are informational only and are not a substitute for your experience and professional judgment in how to launder gowns. Medline disclaims any and all liability arising from the foregoing guidance.



Step	Operation		Time		Temp		Level		Supply	Product	Amount/ cwt
1	Rinse		2		120		high				
2	Wash		8		140		High	Detergent/enzyme	Detergent		5 oz/CWT
3	Drain		2								
4	Rinse		4		120		high				
5	Bleach	(Optional w/enzyme detergent)	3		140		high				50-75 ppm
6	Rinse		4		120		high				
7	Drain		2								
8	Finish		4		120		high	sour (optional bac-stat)			2 oz
9	Extract/low - med. speed		3								
	Total Time		32								
					MAX						
	Drying		15		120 F	material dries almost immediately, cuffs require up to 15minutes. If using no-cuff gowns, dry time is 3-5 minutes					
Important-All wash steps should be run on gentle to maximize gown integrity											



