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Mfrs.: Water Soluble & Compostable Biodegradable Plastic Films, Bags, Pouches, Synthetic Paper

## WATER SOLUBLE HOSPITAL LAUNDRY BAGS

### **HOT AND COLD-WATER SOLUBLE LAUNDRY BAGS:**

Hot water-soluble bags are available in red & transparent color whereas cold-water bags are available in transparent one. OUR laundry bags are ideal for Hospital and Nursing Homes wishing to minimize contact between staff & infected laundry. They are also ideal for hazardous waste facilities.

- Puncture-resistant hot water-soluble bags hold wet or damp linen for some time without rupturing.
- The hot water bags dissolve completely in water at 60°C. - 65°C. Won't damage fabrics, equipment, or waste water treatment systems.
- They are highly resistant to most organic solvents, greases, fats, and oils. Are Impervious to most gases as well as will not generate a static charge.
- Use attached tie-tape to close.

The cold-water bags are designed for dry linens; dissolve completely in a cold wash laundry cycle offering an environmentally friendly and hygienic solution. Since the entire bag dissolves these are safer options for hospitals, nursing homes, mechanics and other users that require washing infected or dirty linen without wishing to come into direct contact with the wash load before it is clean.

The soiled linen has been identified as a source of large numbers of pathogenic microorganisms, there is a risk of actual disease transmission appears when carrying soiled & infected Bed Linens and clothes of Patients.

### **CONTROL MEASURES:**

Soiled linen can be transported in the hospital by cart or chute. Bagging linen is indicated if chutes are used, since improperly designed chutes can be a means of spreading microorganisms throughout the hospital soiled linen may or may not be sorted in the laundry before being loaded into washer/ extractor units. Sorting before washing protects both machinery and linen from the effects of objects in the linen and reduces the potential for recontamination of clean linen that sorting after washing requires. Sorting after washing minimizes the direct exposure of laundry personnel to infective material in the soiled linen and reduces airborne microbial contamination in the laundry. Protective apparel and appropriate ventilation can minimize these exposures.

### **AMAZING BAGS:**

A laundry bag containing dirty linens from a hospital room is tossed into the washing machine. The closed bag with the linens went into the machine! Why would someone do that? Everyone knows that you can't expect your shirt to come clean if you wad it into a bag and toss the bag into the washing machine. Hospitals are now using dissolvable plastic bags.

This plastic is strong and airtight under room conditions but dissolves in hot water. Everyone is familiar with polyethylene sandwich bags and trash bags. Poly (vinyl chloride) films are used to make shower curtains and umbrellas. These polymers don't dissolve in water.



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**RECOMMENDATIONS: (if applicable)**

- Following risk assessment, staff should wear appropriate PPE (e.g. gloves, apron) to handle used/soiled/infected linen.
- Used linen should be placed immediately into an appropriate bag/receptacle at place of use.
- Soiled/foul linen should be placed directly into a water-soluble bag/receptacle to prevent leakage before being transported to Laundry Dept. It should be labelled appropriately and should be removed from the bedside immediately.
- To avoid cross-contamination, linen should not be held against clothes nor should it be placed on the floor.
- Linen should not be sorted / rinsed at place of use.
- Following completion of task, PPE should be removed and disposed of appropriately.
- Hand hygiene should be performed following handling of used linen.
- Clean and used/infected linen should be transported in dedicated vans to avoid cross contamination.
- Laundry personnel should wear gloves/ appropriate PPE when sorting soiled linen for washing.
- Washing process for used linen should include a disinfection cycle when the temperature should be maintained at 65 degrees Celsius for not less than 10 minutes (or preferably 71 degrees Celsius for not less than 3 minutes). Infected linen should undergo additional washing at 93 degrees Celsius for not less than 10 minutes to eradicate HIV and hepatitis viruses.
- In the home, normal 'hot' and 'cold' cycles should be adequate to ensure patient safety.
- Clean and used linen should be kept separate at all times.

**THE ADVANTAGES ARE:**

- Infected laundry is only handled at source.
- Microorganisms can't multiply.
- Less risk of infection to staff and residents.
- Less risk of cross contamination.
- Ammonia can't form due to lack of oxygen therefore urine smells are not produced.
- Prevents stains setting as laundry doesn't dry out.
- Laundry can be safely transported near to kitchen etc.
- Dirty laundry can be left until laundry assistant is on duty this could be days.
- Laundry can be transported safely in cars e.g. community laundry.
- Can be used for an emergency such as machinery breakdown.

**WSF sacks:** The bags are widely used world over in the Hospitals, health centers, nursing homes, residential homes private, voluntary and local authority run Clinics. They are totally resistant to oil and air as well as biodegradable and environmentally friendly. The collecting of dirty and infected items into the PVA bags evidently protects against contagious diseases.



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The purpose of **OUR WSF sacks** is to isolate and transport soiled and infected laundry from the source to the laundry room **WSF sacks** are a single use. The sack is put into a washing machine and the sluice cycle opens the bag, releasing the items and allowing the laundry to be washed. The plastic bag is disposed of at the end of the washing cycle.

The minimum standards laid down in the previous Laundry Manual where: During an outbreak of Diarrhea and vomiting

- When a resident has a known infection During bed changing at night.
- During staff sickness or holiday when laundry will not be processed for some time.

The actual uses in residential units vary, e.g. some units only use them during an outbreak, some only use them at night others use them more frequently. The reason for this varies but some suggestions are:

- Varying laundry systems.
- Budget restraint vs. health and safety Lack of knowledge by managers.
- Poor control of usage by managers and staff Lack of management support.
- Lack of training for staff.
- Lack of staff awareness of their existence Incorrect use e.g. used as a waste bag.

This system is recommended by the department of health and is particularly important in many residential homes as laundry often has to be transported near to kitchen, dining room, front entrances and laundries are often sited near to the main kitchens.

**WSF sacks** - USAGE: The consumption of **WSF sacks** varies but if an establishment used the **WSF sacks** to transport all laundry contaminated with body fluid such as urine, blood, vomit and feces, the average consumption would be more per day.

**FUTURE USE OF WSF sacks:**

- When extra bags are needed in an emergency such as an outbreak of infection, staff shortages.
- For use in establishments who operate a community laundry e.g. Nightingale Lodge.
- When a day care service user requires infected clothing to be transported to their home for washing.
- When needed to transport infected laundry in a vehicle.

**SPECIFICATION OF LAUNDRY BAGS FOR INFECTION CONTROL & MEDICAL DISPOSAL:**

- 1) 660mm x 840mm x 25um
- 2) 710mm x 990mm x 25um
- 3) 914mm x 990mm x 25um

### **HEALTHCARE:**

NCD Corporation S.A. is supplying water-soluble films and bags for healthcare and infection control purposes. Our WSF laundry bags are the most effective system for collection & transportation of infected linen to combat the risk of contamination and cross-infection to visitors, staff, Doctors, patients and laundry personnel.

Make sure that the contents of the bags are not handled until the wash and dry cycle is complete. The bags dissolve completely in the wash, leaving no potentially infected plastic waste.

Our Bio-Hazard bags ensure safe transport of instruments from user to disinfection and sterilization department. All the WSF bags are anti-static, non-toxic, odor retentive, gas and solvent resistant and fully bio-degradable.

### **HOW TO USE:**



### **IN STORAGE:**

- Keep bags sealed within their protective over wrap until they are need for use.
- Once a bag is removed from the pack, keep the remaining bags within over wrap material. This gives some measure of protection against accident exposure to moisture.
- Store over wrapped water-soluble laundry bags at 7 C° (45°F) to 30 C° (86°F) and in Rh 20 to 70% for optimum shelf life. (Guaranty: 12 months)

### **AT SETUP AND IN USE:**

- Handle the bag with dry hand only. Avoid any contact by moisture with the bag film to preserve the film's strength and integrity.
- **IMPORTANT:** A linen item known to be dry should be first item placed in the bag. So, it will gravitate to the bottom. It provides a significant measure of protection to the bag in the event moist items are later placed in that bag.
- Do not place overly wet items in the bag at any time. Remember the bag is sensitive to moisture in any form.



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**AT CLOSURE:**

- Expel as much excess air as possible before closing bag. Take care to avoid expelling air on face. Reduction of trapped air content makes the closed bag a stronger unit for transshipment.
- A colored neck tie is provided with every bag. Use it to close the bag.
- Caution: Do not knot the bag film as a means of closure. Such knots inhibit solubility during laundering.
- The closed water-soluble laundry bag should be placed within another clean and solid outer bag for movement within and outside the hospital. This reduces the chance of puncture or snapping on the way to the laundry.

**IN THE LAUNDRY:**

- The closed water-soluble bag should be placed in the wash wheel or tunnel. Pre-sorting is contraindicated because the soiled linen is assumed to be contaminated.
- To achieve clean washing, whatever cold water soluble or hot water-soluble type, the initial flush shall be in cold water or hot water to wash away the solid dirt inside the contaminated clothing, and then the next washing process continues.
- For complete liquefaction of the film we urge the following:
  - i. Do not overload the washer beyond its rated capacity.
  - ii. Be sure the water temperature reaches at least 65 C° (149°F) for at least 15 minutes during the wash cycle.
  - iii. The 65 C° (149°F) water should have been swirling around the bag linens for 1 minute before the wash chemicals (detergent, alkali, etc.) are injected.
  - iv. Wash at 65 C° (149°F) water for 20 minutes minimum.

**\*\* All bags are equipped with colored tie \*\***

**Caution:** These Bags Are Packed in a Polyolefin Outer Wrap that could develop an Electrostatic Charge. Do not take the Outer Package Wrapping from these Bags into the Operating Room or Other Hazardous Area!