

**LAUNDRY CHUTE CLEANING  
MAINTENANCE**

Effective date: 03/81  
Revision date : 08/12

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Policy:

Ensure that hospital laundry chutes are cleaned and disinfected to maintain infection control standards as requested by Hospital Administration or the Laundry Manager.

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Prevailing Codes and Standards:

Infection Control Procedures for Laundry, OSHA Confined Spaces

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PM Cross Reference:

By work order request only from proper authority.

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Location:

Laundry chutes are located in H and K Wings of the Hospital.

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Procedure:

- I. Laundry Manager will inspect the chutes on a quarterly basis and submit a work order to Physical Plant when he determines the need for cleaning and disinfecting the chutes.
- II. Physical Plant will initiate a request for a Contractor to perform the cleaning of the chute.
- III. The Laundry Manager will:
  - A. coordinate with the contractor a schedule for the cleaning
  - B. ensure that laundry chute room entrance doors are locked
  - C. place "**DANGER - OUT OF SERVICE**" signs on laundry chute room access doors
  - D. notify Hospital Administration when laundry chutes are down for cleaning, and when they are back in service.
- IV. Cleaning Contractor and in-house personnel involved with the cleaning are instructed to:
  - A. Comply with confined space requirements including:
    1. previous confined space training
    2. using special protective equipment identified in confined space guidelines such as:
      - a. Splash-Proof Gown
      - b. Gloves
      - c. Protective Eye Wear
      - d. Submicron Mask
    3. following procedures identified in confined space guidelines such as:
      - a. having a rescue team present for immediately available medical assistance,
      - b. wash hands thoroughly when job is complete and after removal of attire.
  - B. Cleaning Procedure
    1. Start the cleaning operation on the top floor and continue down to the ground floor.
    2. Use a high pressure water sprayer not to exceed 495

3. psi.
  3. Heat sprayer solution to assist the removal operation.
  4. Exercise care not to dislodge, bend or brake sprinkler heads within the laundry chute.
- C. Disinfect as follows:
1. Use the infection control approved biodegradable, alkaline detergent solution furnished.
  2. Mix disinfecting solution into the high pressure sprayer and apply to interior chute walls.
  3. Start the disinfecting operation on the top floor and continue down to the ground floor.
  4. Collect all cleaning and disinfectant residue in a container and dump in an appropriate drain.
- V. Repairs to the interior of the laundry chute: all confined space entry guidelines should be followed.
- A. Sheet metal damage will be repaired by Physical Plant personnel.
  - B. The laundry manager will be notified of the planned repair. Item III B, C, D will be activated.
  - C. A Physical Plant employee will be stationed at each floor to ensure no laundry is placed in the chute.
  - D. A container will be placed on the ground floor beneath the chute to catch any debris.
- C. The employee making the repair will:
1. Wear personal protective equipment
  2. Have attended the confined space seminar
  3. Use (if necessary) safety harnesses
- D. When all work is complete, physical plant will notify the laundry manager who will notify Hospital Administration that the chutes are back in service.