



## Animal Facility SOP 10.2 Cage Washer

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### I. Purpose

This SOP provides instructions on safety and use of the Cabinet Cage washer.

### II. Scope

This compilation is intended for use by all personnel who will discard animal bedding and use the cage washer (e.g., Husbandry staff and researchers.)

**Bedding Disposal:** Bedding is disposed of in the Tecniplast Bedding disposal hood.

**DISPOSABLE PPE MUST BE WORN WHEN USING THE BEDDING DISPOSAL HOOD!**

- a. Turn on the bedding-disposal hood, along with the light if needed.
- b. Ensure the waste container in the cabinet is open.
- c. Carefully empty dirty cage contents into the waste container.
- d. Dispose of dirty bedding after all changes by placing it in a plastic bag and placing the soiled bedding in the outside dumpster.
- e. Wipe down the dump station with PreEmpt spray when finished.

**Cage Washer Areas:**\*Safety glasses and/or face shield and hearing protection are available for use by animal facility Staff. Additionally, PPE must be worn at all times which will consist of disposable lab coats, chemical splash goggles, disposable masks, gloves, ear plugs, shoe covers, and hair cover. Ear plugs must be worn when sound pressure levels exceed OSHA limits.

The Rack Cage Washer should be labeled with a biohazard label and corrosive label. For use of cage washers, refer to SOP 35.1 "Use and Monitoring of Rack Washer." When using the cage washer, utilize the cage washer log to record the final temperature of 180 degrees Fahrenheit have been reached (See appendix A). This should be confirmed by use of a temperature strip to be run on the first load of the day.

1. **Clean Side:** Room 116E.(**Change PPE before entering the cleanside**).

- a. Sweep floors and mop daily or as needed with Stride Citrus cleaner or PreEMPT sanitizing solution.
  - b. Place all equipment neatly on shelves. Wipe all shelves as needed and sanitize once a month.
  - c. Disinfect all utility carts daily PreEMPT spray before and after use..
  - d. Disinfect room once a month with PreEMPT or equivalent disinfectant
  - e. Disinfect stainless steel on cage washer with PreEMPT spray as needed.
  - f. Check floor drain and clean daily.
  - g. Clean the door and window as needed with glass cleaner.
2. **Dirty Side** Room 116D. Wear PPE. Dirty bedding is discarded here. Lab members should leave soiled caging on cart for husbandry staff to dump and wash. If your animals have specialized inoculations or other treatment **DO NOT DUMP CAGES**. Leave cages in the animal room with the appropriate sticker.
- a. Sweep floors and mop daily or as needed for all spills.
  - b. clean all equipment as used and replace it neatly.
  - c. Empty rubbish barrels and clean as needed and disinfected daily.
  - d. Disinfect room every month using PreEMPT spray or equivalent disinfectant.
  - e. Polish stainless steel cage washer and sink (inside and out) using stainless steel polish and clean and polish as needed.
  - f. Check floor drain and clean (swept and mopped) daily.
  - g. Clean doors weekly with Stride Citrus cleaner or equivalent disinfectant.
  - h. Check the cage washer and clean weekly, if necessary. Clean the cage washer doors and polish with stainless steel polish.

### III. Cleaning the Cage washer Preventative Maintenance:

Daily – Prior to the initial start-up of the washer, inspect the interior of the wash compartment. Keep in mind that some parts of the washer may still be very warm from prior use. Inspect all jets and remove any debris from them by poking a small wire into the jet orifice. If debris is considerable, remove pipe plug located on header manifold and run pump manually to flush out jets. Remove any debris or broken glass found on or under the pump screen using a vacuum located on the dirty side. Check around the door seals and remove any debris, if found.

Weekly – When the washer is not in operation and is cool, clean water spots and stains from the exterior of the cabinet with a stainless steel cleaner. WD-40 or similar penetrating oil works very well for this. Check all water, air and steam fittings for signs of leakage and repair as required. Run an acid cycle to descale the cage washer.

Check the emergency exit system.

Quarterly – A service contract provides service and quarterly maintenance inspections of the cage washer. Due to various fuses, seals and other repairable items, only a trained professional should perform any of these procedures. A detailed checklist and service maintenance report will be submitted after every inspection and delivered to the animal facility manager.

Laundry is done in room 115B. Non-disposable lab coats will be washed weekly using commercial detergent and germicidal bleach. Mop heads will be laundered as needed. Filters in the washer and dryer must be checked weekly and cleaned and vacuumed as needed to avoid lint buildup. The laundry room will be swept and mopped once a week using the PreEMPT sanitizing solution.

**Cage Washer Temperature Tape Log**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/12-ybILYKobxWO-FX0zG1X0f8nHntY\\_Y5VSK\\_p7xztY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/12-ybILYKobxWO-FX0zG1X0f8nHntY_Y5VSK_p7xztY/edit?usp=sharing)