



Guidelines for Lab Coat Washing

Lab coats should be washed on a regular basis with washing intervals not normally exceeding once a month. The preference for lab coat washing would be to have dedicated on-site facilities. The secondary option would be to have the lab coats washed off-site by a contractor with whom a written contract is in place and which clearly states the contractors' understanding of the potential presence of hazardous material.

Lab coats are NOT to be taken home to be laundered.

Chemical Guidelines:

- a. If a substantial chemical spill on clothing occurs or if the spilled material is highly toxic, corrosive, persistent (non-evaporating) the lab coat must be discarded according to hazardous waste disposal procedures and will not be accepted for washing.
- b. Coats that should not be washed, but rather discarded would include those that are: still wet with contaminants, or; contaminated with volatile carcinogens, teratogens or toxic materials with an LD50<50mg/kg, or; so contaminated that they smell of chemicals, or; contaminated with materials that pass through Nitrile gloves (e.g. organometallics like methyl mercury), or; contaminated with large amounts (greater in area than a loonie in area) of concentrated acids or other corrosives.
- c. If the spill does not meet any of the above conditions the coat may be washed and reused.

Biosafety Guidelines:

- a. Where a known or suspect contamination/spill from ANY biological agent occurs (regardless of Risk Group Assessment Level), any contaminated clothing and the lab coat must be decontaminated by autoclave or treated with an effective decontaminant before laundering.
- b. Do not autoclave biologically contaminated lab coats that are additionally contaminated with chemical or radioactive material.
- c. Lab coats from biosafety labs must not be sent out to regular laundry services as non-hazardous.

Radiation Guidelines:

- a. If a spill on the lab coat involves radioactive material, inform the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) immediately, put the lab coat in a sealed bag and give it to the RSO directly.