Appendix 8: Best Practice -Linen Bagging and Tagging



CATEGORY	INNER BAG	LINEN BAG/HAMPER
Used linen (All used linen in the care setting not contaminated by blood or body fluids)	None required	
Infectious linen (All linen used by a person known or suspected to be infectious and linen that is contaminated with blood or body fluids)	Water soluble or soluble seam (alginate bag) placed into a polythene bag	
Heat-labile linen Linen that may be damaged (shrinkage/ stretching) by thermal disinfection.	If 'used' none required. If 'infectious' treat as above.	COLOUR MAY VARY

Ensure all linen bags are:

- Securely tied
- Not overfilled
- Tagged with hospital, ward/department and date.

If linen processing has been outsourced to an industrial service provider, follow the categorisation system and colour coding for 'used' and 'infectious' linen set out by the service provider.