

 <p>Africa's Premier Provider of Linen Solutions</p>	Doc No: TTP.R.L.012	Prepared By: Ssemuyiga Denis
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## TEN TEXPROS LAUNDRY SERVICES

### GUIDELINES ON TIME AND TEMPERATURE COMBINATIONS WHEN WASHING LINEN

#### Introduction

The time taken and temperature chosen on the laundry machine to wash linen depends on **"The wash cycle chosen"**. Wash cycles **are the types of programs the laundry machine washer uses to do its job**. They comprise of a washing cycle in the beginning, a rest period, a rinse and then a spin to remove the water. Sometimes there are more than one rinse and spin cycles to get linen extra clean. Always consult **linen care labels** for appropriate linen processing.

#### Purpose

This document shall guide staff on the right combination of temperature and time taken for proper washing of hospital linen.

#### Scope

It shall guide laundry staff, housekeepers and ward staff of Ten Texpros on the right combination of temperature and time needed for effective washing and sluicing of linen.

#### Responsibility

It shall be the responsibility of linen management service officer to train and guide staff on the right implementation of this document.

Laundry staff, housekeepers and ward staff shall have the responsibility to adhere to the implementation of this document when sluicing and washing linen.

The biomedical team/equipment service element have the responsibility of ensuring timely servicing and repair of machines including temperature calibration.

## Procedure

### Time and temperature combinations in accordance with the wash cycles and type of linen

TYPE OF LINEN	WASH CYCLE	TIME	TEMPERATURE	RATIONALE
White cotton/linen, heavily soiled linen	White cotton/normal	50m to 1h	Hot wash (40°C-90°C or more)	Removes tough stains, kills bacteria/infections, removes mildew and gives linen a deep clean.
Synthetics e.g. polyester, medium to heavy soiling	Synthetic/Wrinkle control/permanent set	50m to 1h 15m	Warm wash (30°C-40°C-max 60°C)	Gives good cleaning power while still preserving colors in most garments. Ideal for linen soiled with body fluids. Good for washing every day linen that requires effective stain removal
Delicate, heat labile fabrics e.g. silk, knits, wool and dark or bright color fabrics, lightly soiled linen	Delicate	45m to 1h 20m	Cold wash (20°C-30°C)	For lightly to moderately soiled fabrics, items that may be at risk of shrinking. It protects colors from running or from dye transfer. Gentle on delicate fabrics. But temperature is insufficient to disinfect linen and therefore chemical alternatives like sodium hypochlorite (JIK) are required.
Lightly soiled synthetics or mixed fabrics	Quick wash	15 minutes to 40 minutes	15°C-60°C depending on the fabric	Every day washing that needs to be done quickly, with minimal soiling, but not for delicate garments.
Sturdy linen like towels, jeans	Heavy duty	1h to 2h 15m	30°C-60°C	For not every day wash. Handles heavily soiled linen or sturdy linen like blankets, jeans

## Conclusion

For effective and efficient performance, right combination of temperature and time should be used when washing linen with laundry machines.

## Reference

- *Linen management manual (2023-2026), pages 16,17 and 20*

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