

GRADING SYSTEM STANDARDS FOR TEXTILE QUALITY

GENERAL STANDARDS

1. All textiles must be free from foreign objects such as tape, or heart monitor pads.
2. All textiles must be soft to the touch.
3. All items must be fresh smelling. There should be no moldy, musty, or other unacceptable odors. New bath blankets have a natural cotton smell which is acceptable.
4. All items must be free of rips longer than ¼ inch, and holes larger than the end of a pencil eraser. Additional requirements for holes and tears for specific textile items will be found below.
5. Minor wrinkling is allowed. Major wrinkling and accordion pleating are not permitted.
6. Light stains are acceptable provided they are no larger than a quarter. (see additional standards for specific items)
7. “Thin Textiles” are not acceptable. If an item has noticeably lost a lot of its cotton content it should be rejected.
8. Damp textiles are never acceptable. If a batch of damp textiles is received, they will be sent back to the dryers. If an individual piece is received, it should be placed in rewash.
9. Patched and mended textiles are unacceptable.

Any item not meeting the above standards shall be placed in the red stain tub or brown discard tub. These items will be individually inspected by a Q/A person to determine their final disposition.

Additional requirements for specific textile items will be found below.

STANDARDS FOR SPECIFIC ITEMS

Flat Sheets, Draw Sheets and Fitted Sheets

1. No holes in the center (patient area). Hole no larger than a pencil eraser is acceptable up to 18" from each side.
2. Light stains are acceptable provided they are no larger than a quarter and there are no more than 5 per sheet. (These will be primarily encountered on the draw sheets; they are almost transparent and are caused by medicines used within the hospitals.)
3. No loose hems or selvages.

Pillowcases

1. Stains are not acceptable.
2. No holes or tears.

Towels, Wash Cloths

1. Towels and wash cloths missing sections of looping are not acceptable.

Thermal Blankets

1. Loose strings no longer than 1" are acceptable.

Gowns, PJ pants

1. Gowns are to have no missing ties or snaps.
2. No tears, holes or split seams.

Under Pads

1. No cuts, tears or holes are acceptable, especially on the barrier side.

Isolation Gowns

1. No holes, tears, rips or split seams are acceptable.
2. Isolation gowns contain a near field communication chip (NFC) which shall be checked every use. When the maximum number of washings has been reached, the screen will indicate this and the gown must be discarded.