

Broadsheet

Provincial Linen Service Updates

Clean, Safe Laundry: It starts with you

Each day, over 70,000 lbs of linen is used across the province and sent back to the K-Bro Linen processing plant in Regina. Over a week, that adds up to more laundered and re-used linens by weight than the Statue of Liberty! For a program that large to deliver safe, clean laundry, all linen users must play their part.

This means that tape must be removed from sheets and surgical wrappers before they are placed in the soiled linen bins, and sharps and other garbage should never be mixed in with soiled items. Improperly sorted soiled linens can result in injury (in the case of sharps), unsightly staining (in the case of tape), and increased costs due to replacement of damaged linen items, and additional sorting and cleaning. At present, 12 per cent of all items coming back in black mesh bags are returned because of tape and other foreign items not being removed by users before being placed into soiled linen bags.

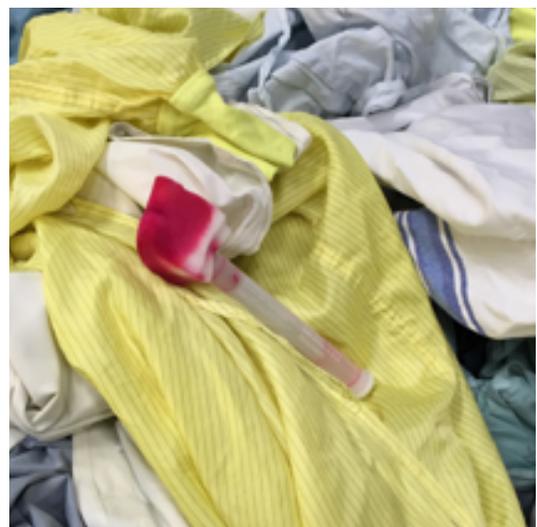
Typically, we think of the Provincial Linen Service as simply a laundry program, but it's actually more accurate to view it as a massive recycling effort. In fact, the Provincial Linen Service is Saskatchewan's largest recycling program, and it depends upon its users to be effective.

Users need to follow the guidelines for soiled laundry in the same way they do for their household recycling. Similar to other recycling programs already widely used across the province—such as recycling plastic drinking bottles, which requires users to remove lids and or caps prior to recycling—the linen recycling program can only be successful if end-users follow certain steps:

- Remove all tape and adhesives from linens before placing them in the soiled bins.
- Dispose of sharps, disposable clothing items, and other garbage and medical waste in the appropriate waste containers.
- Continue to place defective linens in the black mesh bags provided.



Surgical linens are barcoded and traceable back to facilities that have failed to remove tape from surgical linen items.



Many types of garbage, including plastic, disposable clothing, and used disinfectant swabs, are often found mixed in with soiled linens.