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| **STORAGE OF REUSABLE** **LAB COATS** **Used at** **BSL-1, BSL-2 or** **with Chemicals** | 1. Reusable lab coats must be hung or stored in designated spaces in the lab when not in use, and not be  taken home. Avoid storing multiple coats on a single hook, or with personal clothing.2. When not in use, lab coats must not be stored in users’ backpacks, or in offices, break rooms, lounges, or public corridors; i.e., they must not be left on hooks, racks or hangers, in cabinets or drawers, or draped on the backs of chairs in these areas. |
| **HOW TO****DECONTAMINATE CLOTH LAB COATS For****Biological Contaminants** | 1. BSL-2 cloth lab coats must be decontaminated as promptly as possible by autoclaving or other approved method *prior to being laundered,* unless decontamination is performed by a professional cleaning service that has been contracted to clean departmental lab coats. 2. Decontamination by autoclaving is also recommended for BSL-1 lab coats. 3. Procedure:* Collect bio-contaminated lab coats in a dedicated, labeled, lidded container until they can be decontaminated; line the container with an autoclave bag prior to collection.
* Autoclave lab coats in a clear autoclave bag, or label an opaque bag so contents will not be mistaken for biowaste.
* Decontaminate lab coats using a Solid or pre-vac autoclave cycle; use a Chemical Integrator (CI) for load verification.
* After decontamination, remove coats from autoclave bag and place them in the collection receptacle for the laundering method used by your department. IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT USERS REFRAIN FROM TAKING DECONTAMINATED LAB COATS HOME TO LAUNDER THEM DUE TO OTHER HAZARDOUS CONTAMINANTS THAT MAY BE PRESENT.
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| **CLOTH LAB COAT LAUNDERING OPTIONS** | 1. A professional service such as *Cintas (*[cintas.com](https://r.search.yahoo.com/cbclk/dWU9QTZBNTYwNEI4OEFDNEU4RiZ1dD0xNTM2MDg0NjY3MjgyJnVvPTcxMzg2NTk5NSZsdD0yJmVzPU9iVDhjNmNHUFNfdlpocy0mamU9ZTRlNjc1ZTgtYjA2ZC0xMWU4LWI2NzQtN2Y0Y2U3NDEwNTNhLTJiMTAwNGUzNzcwMCZ1aT0xOTguODIuMTcyLjkyJmp0PTE1MzYwODQ2NjczMDMmcHA9bjE-/RV%3D2/RE%3D1536113467/RO%3D10/RU%3Dhttps%3A//www.bing.com/aclick%3Fld%3Dd3g1PuOLAp5hoIMufpiMUNgjVUCUxS7jjwNpaOnNvl1iGbKl4CUu-H9901TSe9Tu1j4pgo3Gb9TBuXJSCmKRvRQqn5FtN5s60Yswvokfpmt-9ZHmpLCqr-G1EQKlDAdpDayj_A7PhYXiUxPDUrjGVsG8hB3ighKbnmwkxT_hYpeiZECwCo%26u%3Dwww.cintas.com%252f%253futm_source%253dbing%2526utm_medium%253dcpc%2526utm_term%253dCintas%2526utm_content%253d713865995%2526utm_campaign%253d.Search%252b%257c%252bBranded%252b%257c%252bProper%2526msclkid%253d%257bmsclkid%257d/RK%3D2/RS%3DpT2C2SJAcMbjP6zcpFLgL_pamfE-)*)* or *Alsco* ([alsco.com/](https://alsco.com/)), or a local laundry or dry cleaning business can provide laundering, to be arranged by the department or PI. Services used must be made aware of potential contaminants, and must verify they can safely remove contaminants from coats.2. A washer and dryer can be provided on site by the department for lab coat laundering.3. If Options 1 and 2 are not available, owners of dirty lab coats can either dispose of coats in hazardous waste and obtain replacements from their PIs/supervisors, or remove coats from the lab in closed bags or containers and take them to a professional service for laundering/cleaning at the owner’s expense. |
| **CLOTH LAB COAT****LAUNDERING GUIDANCE** | **Coats contaminated with biologicals*** Biologically contaminated cloth coats must not be taken home to be laundered.
* Decontaminate via autoclaving as described above prior to laundering, unless a professional service is used that employs a cleaning process that decontaminates biological agents, and:
	+ provides a well-contained collection method for contaminated coats.
	+ has been made aware of all potentially infectious material that may be on the coats (i.e., what the lab is working with).
* Following decontamination, have coats laundered as described above.
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| **Coats contaminated with chemicals** Chemically contaminated cloth coats must not be taken home to be laundered.Cloth coats contaminated with highly toxic or otherwise hazardous chemicals OR heavily contaminated with chemicals should be disposed of as solid chemical waste and not laundered. Cloth coats lightly-to-moderately contaminated with chemicals that are not highly toxic/hazardous should be laundered using one of the options described above (if chemicals can be safely removed by the cleaning process utilized). Laundering is contraindicated for some lab coats, such as those treated with a protective coating that retards flammability. The protective treatment can be damaged in the laundering process. Always clean such coats according to instructions provided by the manufacturer.  |
| **Coats that are soiled** **or stained with dirt, grease/oil, etc.*** Coats that become soiled/dirty in the context of lab activities:
	+ Must not be taken home to be laundered; use one of the options described above.
	+ Must be laundered expeditiously rather stay in use indefinitely in a soiled state. It is recommended that departments proactively establish and enforce this practice.
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| **Coats that are contaminated with biologicals and chemicals, +/- soiled*** If the user is responsible for biological decontamination of the coat, that user must determine if it would be safe to expose the contaminating chemicals to heat and moisture in the autoclave before proceeding to decontaminate the coat via autoclaving.
* Alternatively, if the contaminating chemicals are compatible with bleach, biological decontamination could be accomplished by soaking a coat for 15 minutes in a 1:10 bleach solution. If necessary, another compatible liquid disinfectant that is more effective against the contaminating agents could be employed at the appropriate concentration for the required kill time. Often such situations must be decided on a case-by-case basis; consult EHS for assistance.
* After biological decontamination, determine if contaminating chemicals can be safely removed by laundering before submitting such coats to a laundry service or using departmental laundering facilities. Consult EHS for assistance if needed.
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