

## Optimice SOP - Washing Optimice Components

### Washing Cages

Use a rubber spatula to remove accumulated waste from the cage corners. To extend cage life, do not bang the cage bases on metal surfaces, and do not use metallic scrapers.

Use softer water of 120 to 190 degrees Fahrenheit (49 to 87 C). Excessively hard water may reduce the filter life.

If tunnel washing, orient multiple cage bases in alternating fashion to maximize space (Figure 1).

If using a bulk washer, place lids in the top shelf of the component rack. Alternate the orientation of cage bases on the remaining shelves in sideways fashion facing outward (Figure 2). Insert a feeder in each cage base to maximize efficiency.

During the wash-sterilization cycle, make sure that all the detergent is completely rinsed off every plastic surface before drying or heat sterilizing to extend the life of the plastic.

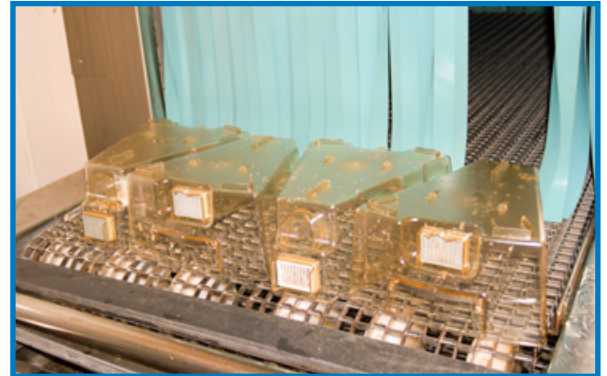
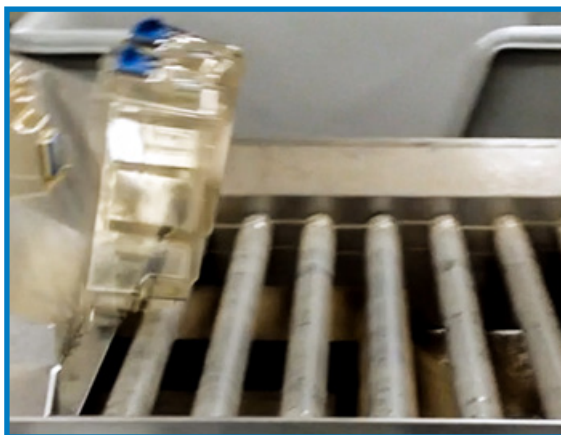


Figure 1



**Allow cage bases to dry completely before housing animals in them.**



Cages about to flip upright to receive bedding



Figure 2: Simulated fashion on a wash rack

## Washing Racks and Exhaust Hoses

### Racks

Make sure to remove all cages from the rack.

1. Open the bottom drain door, using the handle beneath the bottom platter (Figure 3).
2. Spray the top of the rack and down into the central air plenum with a hose.
3. Place the rack into a rack washer.

Once the rack emerges from the washer, make sure the air seal gasket cord is properly seated. If it becomes dislodged during the wash cycle, locate it, and reinstall it ([video](#)). **Wash racks at least once every 12 months.**



**Remove all cages prior to sterilizing a rack.**



Figure 3



### Exhaust Hoses

The inside of the hoses cannot be cleaned using the rack or the tunnel washer methods. In order to ensure the hose interiors are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, either spray the inside and outside of the hose with a disinfectant with the recommended contact time, or fill a sink with the proper dilution of disinfectant, and submerge the hose for the recommended contact time.

Ensure the hoses are fully rinsed, and then either put into use or place them in the rack washer with the rack to help keep track of them. **Wash exhaust hoses at least once every 12 months.**

## Washing Cage Components

### Cage Tops

For the standard cage top rack, the tops should go in sideways and sit flat against the bottom (Figure 4). Place the loaded rack into a tunnel washer.

For Optimice external water bottle or water bag racks, the cage tops go into the rack narrow end first.

For unusually dirty cage tops, place additional space between each cage top.

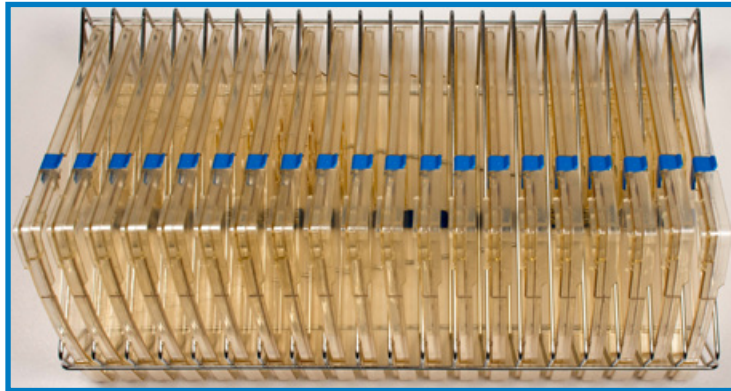
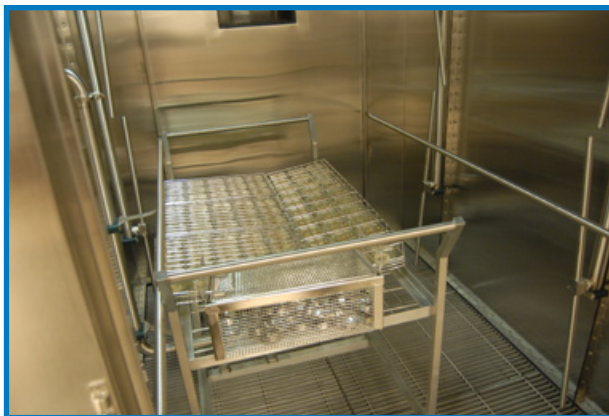


Figure 4

### Water Bottles

1. Remove water bottle caps and place in an accessory basket for separate washing.
2. Ensure the basket lid clip is secure before flipping.
3. Flip the basket (water bottles are now upside down) and then place the loaded bottle basket on the tunnel washer conveyor or in the rack washer with the proper accessory equipment (e.g. bottle cart washer).



## Disinfection

Animal Care Systems racks, cages, and cage components are compatible with common washroom disinfecting chemicals.

In order to maximize equipment life, consult with your Animal Care Systems representative for specific resistances.