

Optimice SOP - Washing Optimice Components

Washing Cages

Use a rubber spatula to remove waste from cage corners if needed. Do not bang cages on metal surfaces or use metal scrapers, as these damage the plastic.

Tunnel Washers

Alternate the direction of cage bases to maximize space (Figure 1).

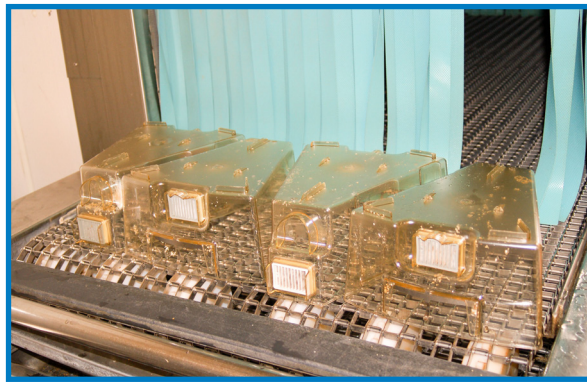


Figure 1

Bulk Washers

1. Place lids on the top shelf.
2. Load cage bases sideways on remaining shelves, alternating direction (Figure 2).
3. Place one feeder inside each cage base to improve efficiency.



Figure 2

Important: Protecting Plastic

To extend cage life, avoid steam with amines and ensure all cages are free of residual disinfectants and rinse agents before heat sterilization. Residual chemicals cause plastic cracking and clouding.



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

Washing Racks

Remove all cages before washing or sterilizing the rack.

Draining Auto-Water Racks

Always drain the rack manifold before sending it to the washer to prevent damage to the internal water system.

1. For quick-disconnect valves, remove drinking valves.
2. Disconnect the inlet and outlet water hoses.
3. Remove the rubber cap from the inlet pipe.
4. Open the air bleed valve at the top (Figure 3).
5. Unscrew the drain valve at the bottom to begin draining water (Figure 4).
6. Allow the rack to drain completely.
7. If heat sterilizing: Keep the air bleed and drain valves open.
8. Close valves only after the rack has completely cooled to room temperature.



Open drain and air vent valves before sanitizing or autoclaving. Trapped water creates steam pressure and can damage the manifold and valve components.

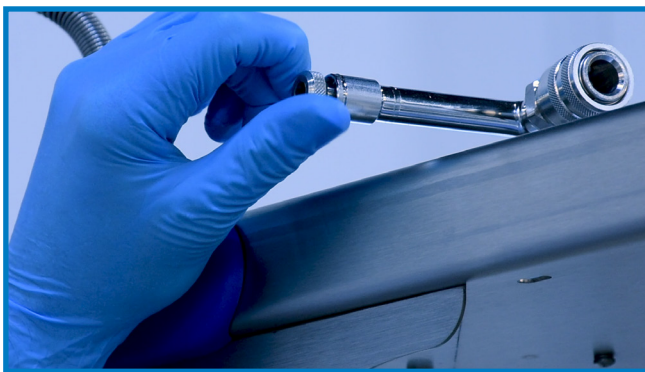


Figure 3



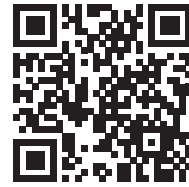
Figure 4

All Rack Types

1. Open the bottom drain door using the handle beneath the bottom platter (Figure 5).
2. Place the rack in the rack washer.
3. After washing, verify the gasket cord is fully in place.
4. If the cord dislodges during washing, reinstall it before use (see video). A displaced cord may cause the rack to squeak when it rotates.
5. Wash racks at least once every 12 months.



Figure 5



Cord reinstallation video

Washing Exhaust Hoses

Manually clean and disinfect using one of these methods.

Method 1: Spray

1. Spray the inside and outside with disinfectant.
2. Allow the recommended contact time.

Method 2: Immersion

1. Fill a sink with diluted disinfectant.
2. Fully submerge the hose.
3. Allow the recommended contact time.

Thoroughly rinse hoses before reuse. Wash exhaust hoses at least once every 12 months.

Washing Cage Components

Standard Cage Tops

1. Load cage tops sideways into the cage top holder (Figure 6).
2. Place the loaded holder into the washer.

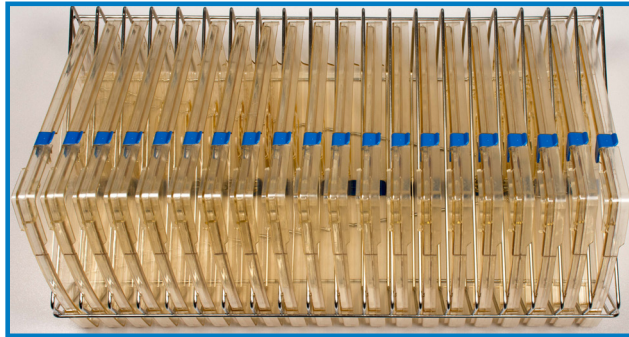


Figure 6

Optimice External Water Bottle or Water Bag Tops

1. Insert cage tops narrow end first into the holder.

Heavily Soiled Cage Tops

1. Leave additional space between cage tops to allow water to reach all surfaces.

Water Bottles

1. Remove bottle caps and place them in a separate accessory basket to wash.
2. Place bottles in the bottle basket.
3. Secure the basket lid clip.
4. Flip the basket so bottles are upside down.
5. Place the loaded basket on the tunnel washer conveyor or in the rack washer with proper bottle washer attachments (Figure 7).



Figure 7

Disinfection

Animal Care Systems racks, cages, and cage components are compatible with most common washroom disinfectants. To maximize equipment life, consult your Animal Care Systems representative for specific chemical compatibility information.