

Optirat Plus SOP - Washing Optirat Plus Components

Washing Cages

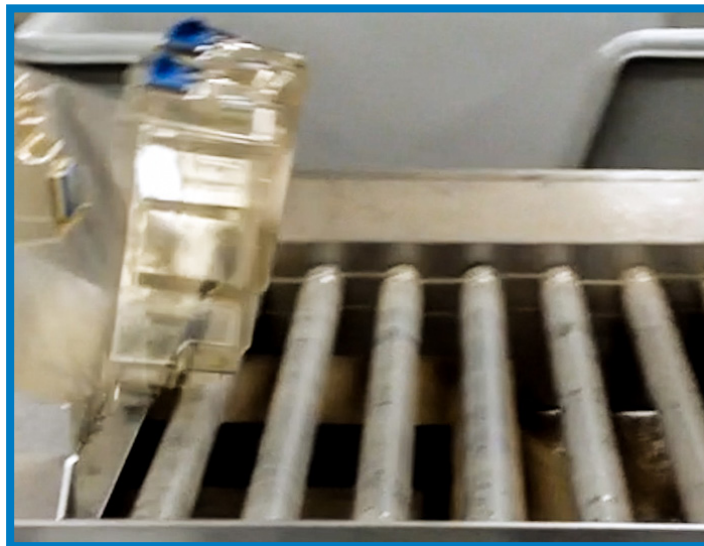
Use a rubber spatula to remove waste from cage corners if needed. Do not bang cages on metal surfaces or use metal scrapers, as these damage the plastic.

Tunnel Washers

Alternate the direction of cage bases to maximize space.

Bulk Washers

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



Cages about to flip upright to receive bedding

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 1).
5. Unscrew the drain valve at the bottom to begin draining water (Figure 2).
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.

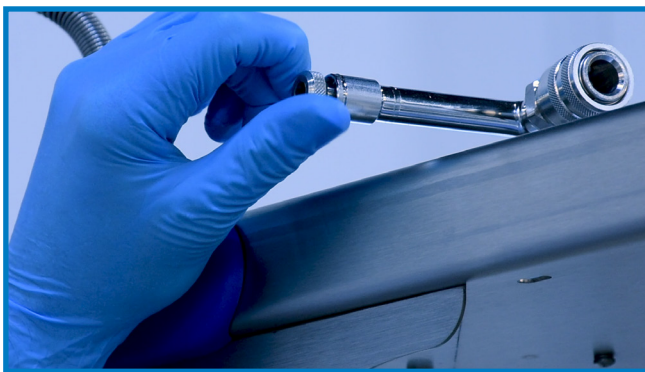


Figure 1



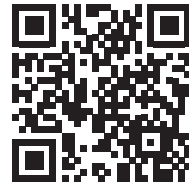
Figure 2

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1. Open the bottom drain door using the handle beneath the bottom platter (Figure 3).
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 3



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.

Optirat Plus

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Cage Tops

Place either water bottle or auto-water cage tops on the appropriate wash rack or face down in a tunnel washer.

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

Water Bottles

Remove water bottle caps and place in an accessory basket for separate washing. Ensure the basket lid clip is secure before flipping. 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 cages, cage components, and racks are resistant to many common disinfecting agents: isopropyl alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, glutaraldehyde, and others.

Polysulfone cages and components are resistant to sodium hypochlorite and calcium hypochlorite; polycarbonate cages and components are less resistant. In order to maximize equipment life, consult with your Animal Care Systems representative for specific resistances.