

Name: Rodent Cage and Bottle Cleaning **Created:** 8/21/17
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Category: Animal Husbandry **Author(s):** T. Schoenfeld

1.0 Purpose

This SOP describes the routine procedures for cleaning cages and water bottles used for housing rodents in the vivarium.

2.0 Policy

- 2.1 Cages and water bottles used for housing rodents are to be changed on a regular schedule or replaced as needed (see SOP 200).
- 2.2 Soiled cage bedding should be collected only in the ventilated dumping station by personnel wearing the appropriate PPE.
- 2.3 Disposal of waste bedding should follow strict guidelines that might dictate special handling as regulated medical waste (and outlined in an Experimental Procedures SOP).
- 2.4 Disposal of residual water in water bottles may require special handling as chemical waste if not plain water (as will be outlined in an Experimental Procedures SOP).
- 2.5 Emptied cages and water bottles are to be washed and sanitized by detergent and high temperature in the Steelco AC 1400 cage washing machine.

3.0 Materials

- 3.1 Used solid-bottom cages with soiled bedding
- 3.2 Used microisolator tops for cages
- 3.3 Used water bottles and stoppers with sipper tubes
- 3.4 Bedding dumping station (Lab Products Waste Management System)
- 3.5 Plastic bags for collecting waste bedding (3 mil, 42 gal contractor bags)
- 3.6 Twister ties for the plastic bags
- 3.7 Detergent for cage washer
- 3.8 PPE (nitrile gloves, lab coat, particle mask)

4.0 Procedure

- 4.1 Collect used cages, microisolator tops and water bottles in the cage washing room (101A).
 - 4.1.1 Cages with soiled bedding are stacked, with the top cage covered.
- 4.2 With the dumping station positioned close to the open cage washer, and its ventilator turned on, uncover used cages and empty the soiled bedding into the dumping station plastic bag.
 - 4.2.1 Remove stuck-on bedding with a scraper.
 - 4.2.2 Close plastic bags with twister ties, within dumping station, when 75% full.

- 4.2.3 Remove closed bags from the dumping station, label “non-hazardous animal bedding” and set out in hallway for disposal by FSU maintainers.
- 4.2.4 Place emptied cages upside down on the rack in the cage washer.
- 4.3 Remove sipper tube stopper and empty water bottles into the sink.
 - 4.3.1 Position empty water bottle upside down in the bottle rack.
 - 4.3.2 Collect stoppers with sipper tubes in a washer basket.
- 4.4 Stop emptying cages and water bottles and run cage washer when cage washer is full of cages, water bottles, and/or sipper tube baskets.
 - 4.4.1 Add appropriate amount of detergent before starting.
 - 4.4.2 Monitor wash and rinse temperature to ensure reaching 180° F/82°C, using the print-out generated with each run.
- 4.5 At the end of the cycle:
 - 4.5.1 Remove clean cages and allow to cool before storing in 101E.
 - 4.5.2 Remove clean water bottles and allow to cool before storing in 101E.

5.0 References

- 5.1 Rodent husbandry (McGill University)
<http://www.mcgill.ca/research/files/research/508 - rodent husbandry - march 2016 1.pdf>
- 5.2 Rodent daily care (McGill University)
<http://www.mcgill.ca/research/files/research/509-rodent daily care.pdf>
- 5.3 Institutional Care and Use Committee Policies and Standard Operating Procedures (Western Michigan University)
https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u245/2015/iacuc_sops_10_2014_1.pdf

SOP REVISION HISTORY

VERSION #	APPROVED	DETAILS
201.01	12/20/17	Authored by T. Schoenfeld