

Processing Procedure O.R. Towels

PROCESSING RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations offered below are general guidelines. The parameters used should be adjusted based on each facilities equipment, operational procedures, and experience.

OPERATION	TIME	WATER LEVEL	TEMP.	SUPPLIES
Flush	3 Min.	Med	90°F	
Break	8 Min.	Low	160°F	Nonionic Detergent & Alkali
Suds	10 Min.	Low	160°F	Nonionic Detergent
Bleach	8 Min.	Low	155°F	Sodium Hypochlorite* (pH Target of 10.2)
Rinse	3 Min.	High	145°F	
Rinse	3 Min.	High	130°F	
Rinse	3 Min.	High	115°F	
Sour	5 Min.	Low	100°F	Sour to pH of 5.5 – 6.5
* If chlorine bleach is used, an anti-chlor is recommended in the last rinse.				

DRYING RECOMMENDATIONS

Tumble dry at 160°F.

GENERAL – All new products made from spun cotton fibers will tend to lint, especially when new. An initial wash with good mechanical action and water flow will yield a low lint towel free of pills and loose surface fibers. To prevent linting issues we recommend the following:

1. Washing all new items separately before mixing with current inventory. Loading open pocket washer extractors to 70% of rated capacity and using high water levels during the rinsing operations to minimize lint and pilling issues with new products.
2. OR towels should be sorted and processed separate from other items that may cause lint contamination like terry products.
3. Lint screens in dryers should be regularly cleaned.

STERILIZATION – Reusable O.R. Towels can be steam sterilized in prevacuum steam sterilization cycles with a set temperature of 270°F/132°C, an exposure time of 4 minutes and dry time of at least 15 minutes **or** a gravity steam sterilization cycle with a set temperature 250°F/121°C, an exposure time of 30 minutes and a dry time of at least 15 minutes. A validated sterilization cycle should be used.