



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER RESEARCH & SPONSORED PROGRAMS
INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE [IACUC]
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STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES: CAGE WASH AREA IN UPHAM HALL ANIMAL CARE FACILITY

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POLICY

Animal care and use practices are to be followed as outlined by this document in accordance with regulations and guidelines found in the Animal Welfare Act and the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

APPLICABLE

All personnel engaged in the husbandry and care of animals used in research at the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater.

PURPOSE

To describe the procedures for use of the cagewash in the Upham Hall Animal Care Facility.

PROCEDURES

Note: Bruce Eshelman and Teresa Golembiewski will provide instructions on how to use the cage washer to faculty/staff and students. Teresa Golembiewski will keep a folder in her office with the names of those people who are trained for use of the machine. The vendor's operating instructions are posted next to the cagewash.

1. Use the large sink and spray washer (and brush if necessary) on the left of the Cage Washer to remove large debris from the cages you are about to wash.
2. Lift cover on top of the cage washer by the handle and move the exposed switch to "normal."
3. Partially lower the side doors to within about 4 inches of the bottom of the cage washing chamber.
4. Press the "Fill" switch to make sure the reservoir is within about one-half inch of the hole in the overflow tube.
5. Load cages into the machine from the left side and close the doors completely.
6. Check temperature cage underneath the wash chamber to make sure the water temp is about 110 degrees Fahrenheit.
7. The machine will now go through an automatic wash/rinse cycle.
8. When the wash/rinse cycle is complete, remove cage(s) from the right side of the machine onto the drain table on the right side of the machine.
9. Move cages from the drain table to an appropriate drying area.
10. Repeat wash/rinse procedure until you have completed washing all cages.
11. When you have completed washing all cages, clean the drain screen as directed by the instructions posted on the front of the wash cabinet.
12. Enter the approximate number of wash cycles you have performed into the log book provided.
13. **DO NOT MAKE ANY ADJUSTMENTS TO THE CAGE WASHING MACHINE.**
14. If you encounter some problems with the machine, contact Dr. Eshelman in the Biological Sciences Department, Room 303 Upham Hall.

MONITORING CAGE WASH SANITATION

A record of the water temperature will be kept in the log on each day of use to verify the cages are being cleaned correctly and are sanitary. The thermometer is located on the pipe that feeds directly into the unit so the temperature of the water going into the chamber is known at all times.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

Note: The cage washer uses a combination of extremely hot water and chemicals to clean cages.

1. Standard Operating Procedures: The standard operating procedures will be posted next to the cagewash.
2. Warning Signs: Posted near the cagewash.
3. Eyewash Instructions: There will be an eye wash station with solution near the cagewash. A sign with instructions on how to use the eye wash solution will be mounted to the wall next to the instructions for the cagewash.
4. Users are not required to wear protective equipment to operate the cagewash. Lab coats are provided to users, if desired.

SEMIANNUAL FACILITY INSPECTION CHECKLIST – CAGEWASH

Note: Semiannually, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) will inspect the cage wash area in the animal care facility using the following guidelines.

1. Construction of doors, windows, floors, drainage, walls, and ceilings complies with *Guide*.
2. Convenient to animal areas/waste disposal.
3. Ease of access (including door size) facilitates use.
4. Sufficient space for workload.
5. Safety precautions/clothing/equipment used for bedding disposal/prewash/acid wash: The faculty/staff research supervisor will provide individualized training to new faculty/staff and students using the equipment. The Biological Sciences Department has developed Standard Operating Procedures for the cage wash area. Record keeping of the cage washing will be kept as part of the Standard Operating Procedures.
6. Traffic flow clean to dirty with no contamination of clean equipment by dirty equipment.
7. Insulation and/or sound attenuation present as needed.
8. Utilities are appropriate.
9. Ventilation meets heat and humidity load and *Guide* requirements.
10. Safety features (SOPs, warning signs, eyewash station are in use): The Biological Science Department will post the standard operating procedures, warning signs, and eyewash instructions.
11. Cagewash temperatures are monitored and records are available: The Biological Science Department will keep a log of the cagewash temperature on each day of use.
12. Appropriate clean cage storage.