



# Home Washing Isn't Enough: **7 Key Findings** on Healthcare Uniform Hygiene

Key findings from a new peer-reviewed study, *Domestic laundering of healthcare textiles: Disinfection efficacy and risks of antibiotic resistance*.\*

**1**

## **Home Washing Machines Often Fail to Disinfect:**

Even at a hot water setting of 140°F, many household machines did not effectively remove harmful bacteria from healthcare uniforms.

**2**

## **Rapid and Standard Cycles Are Inadequate:**

Half of the machines tested failed to disinfect during rapid cycles, and one-third were ineffective even during standard cycles.

**3**

## **Bacteria Survive Domestic Laundering:**

Pathogenic bacteria, including antibiotic-resistant strains, were found to remain on healthcare uniforms after typical home laundering processes.

**4**

## **Biofilms in Machines Harbor Pathogens:**

Biofilms sampled from 12 washing machines contained potentially harmful bacteria and antibiotic resistance genes.

**5**

## **Detergent Exposure May Increase Antibiotic Resistance:**

Bacteria exposed to domestic detergents developed increased resistance to certain antibiotics.

**6**

## **Healthcare Uniforms Can Transmit Infections:**

The study reinforces concerns that uniforms washed at home may contribute to the spread of hospital-acquired infections.

**7**

## **Industrial Laundering Recommended:**

The study suggests that healthcare facilities should consider partnering with commercial laundry services to better control infection risks.



Don't risk the safety of your staff, patients, or community -  
switch to hygienically clean reusable textiles today  
**Find a laundry provider near you - [LaundryServices.org](https://LaundryServices.org)**

\*Source: Laird, K. et al. (2025). [Domestic laundering of healthcare textiles: Disinfection efficacy and risks of antibiotic resistance transmission](#). PLOS One. Study funded by De Montfort University, the Textile Services Association (TSA-UK), and TRSA.