

CLEANING DO'S AND DON'TS for HEALTHCARE FABRICS

CLEANING DO'S

- **DO** clean all stains promptly
- **DO** use only fabric-safe cleaning agents or disinfectants
- **DO** dilute all disinfectants and germicides in accordance with manufacturer's instruction
- **DO** wipe fabric clean with neutral soap suds and lukewarm water
- **DO** rinse thoroughly
- **DO** allow adequate drying time before returning to service
- **DO** use a soft sponge with liquid cleaner as specified on the manufacturer's product label for hard-to-clean areas
- **DO** clean daily to control or prevent odors on long term incontinent applications
- **DO** use a scented cleaner or disinfectant that is designed for use on fabrics if needed to control odors on long term incontinent applications
- **DO** disinfect blood contamination with a 1:10 dilution of household bleach (5.25% sodium hypochlorite) as recommended by the CDC (Center for Disease Control, US Department of Health and Human Service, February 1989); a weaker dilution, e.g. 1:100 may be used, but may not be in accordance with CDC recommendations.
- **DO** be aware that staining chemicals and cleaning agents can affect fabric strength, finish, and color
- **DO** inspect mattresses frequently to ensure that new stains can be treated promptly
- **DO** ask your support surface manufacturer for additional information related to the care and cleaning of the support surface

CLEANING DON'TS

- **DO NOT** machine wash or machine dry
- **DO NOT** use harsh cleaners or solvents
- **DO NOT** use cleaning agents designed for use on hard, non-porous or metal surfaces
- **DO NOT** use iodophor type disinfectants, such as Betadine, because they will stain the fabric
- **DO NOT** use household bleach or concentrated cleaning agents, disinfectants or germicides without diluting the product according to the manufacturer's instructions
- **DO NOT** allow any cleaning agent to remain in contact with the fabric or "dwell" on the fabric for a prolonged life
- **DO NOT** fail to adequately rinse the cleaning agent or disinfectant from the fabric