

## Safe Work Procedure: Unloading Washers

<b>Department</b>	<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Date Created:</b>	<b>Review/Revised Date:</b>
Environmental Services	Regional Director of Support Services	2013/09	2017/06; 2022/06

Potential Hazards:	Personal protective equipment / devices required / other safety considerations
<p><i>Fill in those that apply:</i>  <b>Risk for injury: H=High M=Medium L=Low</b>  <b>M</b> Awkward/sustained postures (reaching, twisting)  <b>M</b> Forceful exertions (pushing heavy carts)  <b>L</b> Repetitive movements  <b>L</b> Bump edges of drum/door  <b>L</b> Pinch points (doors closing)  <b>L</b> Moving machinery (drum stills pinning)  <b>L</b> Noise  <b>L</b> Sharps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cart with Backsaver (elevated spring-loaded cart if available)</li> <li>• Appropriate non-slip footwear</li> <li>• Hearing protection (if required)</li> </ul>

### Training / Reference information

- SCHIPP Module 1 training
- Department Orientation
- Department Manual

**Note:** Signs and symptoms of a musculoskeletal injury (MSI) can include pain, burning, swelling, stiffness, numbness/tingling, and/or loss of movement or strength in a body part. Report these to your supervisor.

**Employers must ensure that workers are trained and follow this safe work procedure Steps to perform this task safely:**

1. Position the laundry cart to one side of the washer opening, and not directly in front. Standing in front of the washer door, take small steps to turn with feet rather than twisting your back to unload the laundry into the cart. Bend hips and knees to reduce forward bending.
2. Lift only what is safe for you to lift.
3. When required, use a laundry rake to reach and pull linen from the back of the drum.
4. Do not pull tangled linen out of the washer. Tease the tangled linen apart.

*If an emergency situation occurs while conducting this task or if there is an equipment malfunction, engage emergency stop and follow the lock out procedure.*

**Report any hazardous situations to your supervisor**