

Australian Standard[®] 2391—1985

TEXTILES FOR HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS—WOOL BLANKETS—LAUNDERING PROCEDURES



STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
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The following interests are represented on Committee TX/15:

Australian Chamber of Commerce
Australian Confederation of Apparel Manufacturers
Australian Hospitals Association
Australian Wholesale Softgoods Federation
Australian Wool Corporation
Australian Wool Testing Authority Limited
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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

**TEXTILES FOR HOSPITALS
AND INSTITUTIONS—WOOL
BLANKETS—LAUNDERING
PROCEDURES**

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PREFACE

This edition of this standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Hospital Textiles and Textile Products under the direction of the Textile Standards Board. It replaces AS 2391—1980, Textiles—Wool Blankets for Hospitals and Kindred Institutions—Laundering Procedures.

The laundering operation, which is designed to clean blankets complying with AS 2390.1, involves the use of neutral synthetic detergents at elevated temperatures causing the destruction of pathogenic organisms.

This standard differs from AS CL2 in that it requires the detergent formulation used to contain a surfactant that is biodegradable, and a sequestering agent to reduce metal staining. The range of pH of the detergent solution has also been widened. AS 2391—1980 also recognized the use of different sizes of washing machines appropriate to the load being washed and stated the recommended amount of detergent to be used. In this edition the quantity of spray-dry detergent has been omitted, being subject to manufacturers' recommendations, and the requirement for two washes has been eliminated to meet improved laundry practice. Provision is also made in the washing conditions for situations where a wash-extractor is not available.

The procedures described have been developed in conjunction with the Hospital Laundry Managers Association of Australia and the Australian Wool Corporation.

CONTENTS

		<i>Page</i>
1	Scope	3
2	Application	3
3	Referenced Documents	3
4	Detergent Composition	3
5	Laundering Instructions	3

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STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

TEXTILES FOR HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS—WOOL BLANKETS—
LAUNDERING PROCEDURES

1 SCOPE. The standard sets out procedures to be adopted for the laundering of wool blankets used in hospitals and kindred institutions. Laundering procedures comply with the requirements of AS 2390.1. The standard incorporates a high temperature method of laundering which will destroy most pathogenic organisms.

2 APPLICATION. The standard is applicable to the laundering of wool blankets manufactured in accordance with AS 2390.1.

3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS. The following standards are referred to in this standard:

AS 1792 Method for Determining the Biodegradability of Surfactants

AS 2390.1 Textiles for Hospitals and Institutions—Blankets—Wool Blankets.

4 DETERGENT COMPOSITION.

4.1 Essential ingredients and requirements. The detergent shall be either a free flowing powder of homogeneous composition or a suitable liquid with long-term stability. The detergent shall include the following essential components:

- (a) Surface active agents which are biologically soft as defined in AS 1792.
- (b) A sequestering agent to prevent discolouration of the laundered articles from traces of iron or copper in the water or from associated plant and machinery.
- (c) A suitable builder to give adequate soil suspension.

4.2 Optical brighteners. The detergent shall contain no optical brightening agent substantive to wool.

4.3 pH of the detergent solution. The pH of the 1 percent solution of the detergent shall be within the range 6.5 to 8.0.

5 LAUNDERING INSTRUCTIONS.

5.1 Washing procedure.

- (a) Each blanket should be opened out before placing in the laundering machine.
- (b) The laundering machine should be loaded to not more than 75 percent of its dry laundering capacity and a full dip used for each operation.
- (c) The load should be given an initial warm flush to remove protein soiling matter that may be fixed by high temperature laundering.

- (d) The initial warm flush shall be followed by one high temperature wash with detergent added. The quantity of the detergent required will depend on the degree of soiling, the hardness of the water and the characteristics of the washing machine. The quantity of detergent required for various capacities in washing machines shall be in accordance with the detergent manufacturers' recommendations.

The wash shall be of adequate time and temperature for pasteurization, which shall be a minimum of 70°C for 10 minutes after mixing.

- (e) Following washing, the blankets should have two rinses with intermediate extraction or three warm rinses followed by extraction.

5.2 Recommended washing conditions. The recommended washing conditions are set out in Table 1.

TABLE 1
RECOMMENDED WASHING CONDITIONS FOR
WASHER EXTRACTOR SYSTEMS

Operation	Initial temperature °C	Detergent added	Minimum cycle time at initial temperature min.
Flush	40	Nil	3
Wash	80	See Clause 5.1(d)	8
Extract	—	—	2
1st rinse	65	Nil	3
Extract	—	—	2
2nd rinse	65	Nil	3
Extract	—	—	5

NOTES:

1. As an alternative to the second extract, a third warm rinse (65°C) may be used then extracted.
2. The washing machine liquor is dumped at the end of each operation cycle.

5.3 Drying procedure. After extraction, the load may be dried by suitable available means. If a tumbler dryer is used, the temperature should not exceed that which will damage the textile materials being dried. After the drying period is complete, the tumbler dryer should continue to run until the load is cool.

5.4 Folding. After drying and cooling, the blankets shall be folded in a uniform manner.