



JTM Service

Commercial Laundry Equipment
& Dishwasher Experts

Commercial Washing Machines

Care Compliance Requirements

Using domestic washing machines in a Care environment is unlikely to be practical from a performance, cost and efficiency perspective. But did you know it is also likely to fail to meet requirements of the CQC or the Water Regulations, leading to legal action, fines and potential closure?

With over 40 years' experience, at JTM Service we are specialists in commercial laundry equipment and dishwashers, supporting the Care sector. In this guide we explain more about the regulatory requirements for commercial washing machines in a Care and Nursing Home, and how you can ensure you achieve compliance.



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Risks

It is essential that Care and Nursing Homes have effective laundry equipment which can manage the volumes of laundry, whilst delivering outstanding performance. The equipment must be robust and reliable, minimise costs, and maximise hygiene and infection control. And it must meet the specific legal and regulatory requirements that apply.

This can only be achieved with commercial laundry equipment. If you use domestic washing machines, or the wrong commercial washing machines, it can create issues with the CQC or the Water Authorities, and potentially lead to penalties, closure and prosecution.

Requirements

The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 ('The Water Regulations'): washing machines (and dishwashers) in commercial settings need to meet The Water Regulations, specifically Regulation 4. This includes have machines which have the right fittings to prevent 'backflow' – foul water going back into the public water supply. They have to be tested by an independent third party, and in Care they need to be certified to "fluid category 5", which is the highest level of backflow protection. Failure can lead to penalties, closure and prosecution.

Health Technical Memorandum 01-04 - Decontamination of linen for health and social care (HTM 01-04): this gives guidance for those who process linen in health and adult care settings regarding contaminated linen (bed linen, clothes, towels etc). This covers processes, separation, transportation and handling of laundry, and also disinfection, which is relevant to the laundry equipment:

- Thermal disinfection – disinfection must be achieved in a care home, and thermal disinfection is achieved by hitting at or above 65°C for 10 minutes, or 71°C for 3 minutes.
- Soiled and infected linen should be placed in a bag (e.g. 'red bags').
- Contaminated laundry should go into a washing machine with a closed / gravity drain.

Gravity Drain Washing Machines: due to the type of laundry in a Care or Nursing Home, this should go into a washing machine with a closed drain. It should also be a 'gravity' drain as opposed to a pump drain, otherwise red bags can block it. Gravity drains are commercial machines, and will usually come with wash programmes which meet the thermal disinfection requirements.



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Compliance

Domestic washing machines do not:

- Meet the requirements of Regulation 4 of the Water Regulations for Care Homes, and are not certified to fluid category 5.
- Come with programmes which meet and hold the required temperatures for thermal disinfection.
- Have a gravity drain which is a closed drain – they are usually “pump” drain, meaning they will get blocked, and they do not meet the requirements for contaminated laundry.

To achieve compliance with the water regulations, HTM 01-04 and the other requirements, you need commercial washing machines with the relevant approvals and fittings. They need to be installed correctly and serviced to ensure continued compliance.

How Can We Help ?

We supply and install commercial washing machines from leading manufacturers which are certified to meet the Water Regulations, and meet the requirements of HTM 01-04. We are specialists in the Care sector, and we can review your current equipment and practices to help you ensure you are compliant.

To speak to us about your commercial laundry equipment and dishwasher needs, and how we can support you, please contact us on **0113 257 2221** or **info@jtmservice.co.uk**



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