



Toy Cleaning and Sanitization Policy – Dishwasher Method

Purpose

To ensure all toys are cleaned and sanitized in a manner that meets Alberta Health Services (AHS) requirements for infection prevention and control.

Approved Equipment

The centre uses a dishwasher equipped with an NSF/ANSI 184 certified sanitize cycle. This cycle uses a high-temperature final rinse to achieve sanitization.

Scope

This procedure applies to all washable, non-porous toys (e.g., plastic toys, hard figurines, blocks).

Procedure

1. Sorting

- Toys are sorted to ensure only dishwasher-safe, non-porous items are included.
- Items with batteries, fabric, or internal components are excluded.

2. Pre-Cleaning (Wash Step)

- Visible dirt and debris are removed prior to placing toys in the dishwasher.
- Heavily soiled items are rinsed or washed with detergent and water before dishwashing.

3. Dishwasher Loading

- Toys are placed in a manner that allows full water contact.
- Small items are secured in mesh bags or utensil baskets to prevent loss or damage.

4. Sanitizing Cycle

- The dishwasher is run using the **NSF/ANSI 184 certified sanitize cycle**.
- This cycle uses a high-temperature rinse to achieve sanitization and reduce bacteria.

5. Drying

- Toys are allowed to **fully air dry** inside the dishwasher or on clean drying racks.
- No towel drying is performed to prevent contamination.

6. Storage

- Once dry, toys are stored in clean, designated bins or shelves.
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Frequency

- **Mouthed toys:** Cleaned and sanitized after each use
 - **Shared toys:** Cleaned and sanitized daily or more frequently as needed
 - **Weekly rotation:** All toys cleaned and sanitized on a scheduled rotation
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Monitoring and Documentation

- Staff ensure the sanitize cycle is selected for each load.
 - Dishwasher is maintained according to manufacturer instructions.
 - Any malfunction is reported immediately, and alternate sanitizing methods are used.
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Alternative Method (If Dishwasher Unavailable)

If the dishwasher is unavailable, toys will be:

1. Washed with detergent and water
 2. Rinsed with clean water
 3. Sanitized using an approved disinfectant solution
 4. Air dried
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Compliance

This policy follows Alberta Health Services guidelines requiring toys to be cleaned and sanitized using an approved method, including heat-based sanitization.