

Ventilated vs. Static Cages, What is the difference?

Ventilated

Cages described as ventilated are “plugged” into a rack which provides clean, filtered air to the cage while actively exhausting the air inside the cage to maintain a healthy environment for the rodents. Cages are changed every two weeks. The ventilated rack can also provide a water supply, although this is dependent on each individual cage being “charged” prior to use. New cages must be plugged into a charge station (available in all Biosafety cabinets) and the lixet toggled to ensure water will flow out to the rodents. Alternatively, water bottles can still be requested by PI staff for a fee.

Static/Standard

Cages described as static have either a filtered top or a wire top. The cages are placed on a tabletop, rack, or shelf. The room input and exhausts provide 10-15 room changes/hour, and cage level ventilation is passive. Cages are changed twice weekly. Water can be supplied automatically to a rack through a hole at the back of the rodent cage. Alternatively, individual water bottles may be used to provide a water source – fee for water bottles is included in the per diem for static cages.