

Types of Rodent Housing

Sterile

Microisolator caging will be provided. All supplies (cages, bedding, feed, water bottles) are autoclaved or irradiated prior to entering the room. Personnel entering the room must be wearing full personnel protective equipment (PPE) including disposable gown, hair bonnet, mask, and gloves.

Cages can only be opened under the Biosafety cabinet (BSC) using appropriate microisolator hood technique (training is available on request). Rodents that undergo whole body irradiation and/or have a compromised immune system should always be housed in a sterile environment.

Barrier

Microisolator caging will be provided. All supplies are clean but **have not** been autoclaved prior to entering the room. Personnel entering the room must be wearing full personnel protective equipment (PPE) including disposable gown, hair bonnet, mask, and gloves. **Cages can only be opened under the hood or Biosafety cabinet (BSC) using appropriate microisolator hood technique (training is available on request).**

Conventional

Supplies are clean but have not been autoclaved prior to entering the room. Personnel entering the room must be wearing either scrubs or a clean lab coat/disposable gown over street clothes. Disposable gloves must be worn when handling animals.

Biohazard

Specific requirements are dependent on the agents being used. Additional costs (ranging from 10 to 30%) apply based on special handling procedures required by EHS to protect the animals and personnel.

Guidance for manipulations of animals housed in Barrier or Sterile rooms:

To control and minimize animal exposure to excluded pathogens, the expectation is that all animal manipulations are to be performed within a biosafety cabinet. Furthermore, working inside a biosafety cabinet helps to minimize personnel exposure to animal allergens as the development of allergies is a common occupational concern in the lab animal setting.

Procedures include but are not limited to administrations of agents, blood sampling, and surgical manipulations. Any exception would need to be discussed and approved by the clinical veterinarian for that facility.

Terminal procedures, such as euthanasia and tissue harvest, performed in a procedure area (not within the animal housing room) are exempted from the rule. Since animals are not returned for housing they do not pose a risk to the remaining colonies.