

## Role of Textiles in Hygiene

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**Received:** November 24, 2025; **Accepted:** November 26, 2025; **Published:** November 28, 2025

Textiles are essential for hygiene by creating barriers against infection in healthcare settings, facilitating infection control, and protecting both patients and staff through products like surgical gowns, masks, and hospital linens. They are also used in everyday hygiene products such as diapers and sanitary napkins, and their hygiene is maintained through proper laundering which removes pathogens and odor. Advanced textiles can even incorporate antimicrobial properties and wound care applications to actively prevent infections and promote healing.

### In healthcare

- **Barriers:** Textiles like surgical gowns, masks, and drapes act as physical barriers to prevent the spread of microorganisms between patients, staff, and the environment.
- **Infection control:** They are crucial for maintaining a clean and safe environment in hospitals through products like bed linens, patient apparel, and chair pads.
- **Antimicrobial properties:** Many healthcare textiles are treated with antimicrobial agents to reduce the risk of infections.
- **Wound care:** Advanced textiles are used in bandages and wound dressings to promote faster healing.
- **Monitoring:** Smart textiles can monitor a patient's health indicators.

### In personal hygiene

- **Absorbency and comfort:** Textiles are used in personal care products like baby diapers, sanitary napkins, and wound dressings for their absorbency, comfort, and durability.
- **Preventing contamination:** They help in absorbing body fluids and preventing contamination, as seen in incontinence products.

### Maintaining textile hygiene

- **Laundering:** Proper and frequent laundering is critical for removing dirt, bodily fluids, and pathogens from textiles like clothing and linens.
- **Sterilization:** Many medical textiles are engineered to withstand frequent washing and sterilization processes without degrading their integrity.
- **Antimicrobial treatments:** Treatments help prevent the growth and spread of microbes on the textiles.

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**Citation:** Gokarneshan N. Role of Textiles in Hygiene. J Sex Health Reprod Med. 2025. 1(4): 1-1. DOI: doi.org/10.61440/JSHRM.2025.v1.28

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