

Preparation of Nude Mouse Caging

Supplies:

Innovive™ cages	Innovive™ cage bonnet filter top
Corncob bedding 1/4"/Alpha-dri 1:1 mix	Innovive™ feeder
Specialty bedding per PI request	Plastic pipette box enrichment
Enviro-dri™	Innovive™ prefilled water bottles
Stainless steel cup	12M HCl
Tyvek™ autoclave bag	Autoclave tape
Brown paper	TB syringe

Innovive™ Cage Preparation:

1. Place sterilized supplies into the sterile hood and spray the outer surfaces with 70% ethyl alcohol.
2. Once alcohol has evaporated, the plastic covering Innovive™ caging components is opened; the aluminum foil is removed from the autoclaved bedding and environmental enrichment products.
3. Using the sterile cup, place one and a quarter cup bedding into the cage along with a generous handful of Enviro-dri™.
4. Bed all cages and restack into the sterile plastic sleeve except for the bottom most cage that touched the bench in the hood.
5. Cages are removed as needed for changing maintaining the sterility of the unused caging.
6. Feeders and cage bonnet tops are opened as needed. Unused feeders are placed into the sterile plastic sleeve with unused cage tops.
7. All opened plastic sleeves containing sterile caging components are twisted closed and secured with a strip of masking tape prior to removal from the sterile hood.
8. Innovive™ water bottles are sprayed with alcohol before opening the plastic wrap. The lid opening is covered with an adhesive sticker which must be peeled off for water access. Place 0.15 ml of 12M HCl into each water bottle via the lid opening to acidify the water if desired.
9. Place unused water bottles into a sterile cage or sterile plastic sleeve for storage.

JAG and Nalgene Cage Preparation:

1. Cages are bedded and environmental enrichment inserted into the cage.
2. Cage tops and bonnets are fitted on the cages. Be sure the filter on the cage bonnet is intact and properly seated.
3. A 2-4 inch brown paper strip is wrapped around the cage and secured with a small piece of autoclave tape.
4. Put a small piece brown paper at the end so it shows through the drawstring opening.
5. The cage is placed in a Tyvek™ bag and the bag closed by pulling the drawstrings tight and tying in a bow.
10. Write the autoclave date on the brown paper showing through the opening.

Autoclaving:

1. Place the bagged cages into the autoclave allowing about a finger width between cages. If a second row is needed, arrange the cages so that they are not directly stacked on top of the bottom row.
2. Set the autoclave at 121°C for an exposure time of 15 minutes with an exhaust time of 5 minutes.
3. The cages must be fully cooled prior to use.
4. Place the cages on the covered storage rack inside room 415.