**Thermolabel Water Temperature Strips**

Last Reviewed: January 3, 2024

**I. Purpose**  
Thermolabel Temperature Strips are used as quality assurance devices for the cage washers in North and South Skaggs and the Health Science Building to ensure that the water in the cage washers in all facilities reach 180°F for sanitation purposes.

**II. Responsibility**  
It is the responsibility of LAR staff to apply, maintain and record data from the temperature strips.

**III. Procedure**

* Packages of Thermolabel Temperature Strips are located in the sleeve of each cage washer notebook (in HSB, they are located in a clear, plastic sleeve next to the dirty side of the cage washer).
  + Extra strips are stored in the Facility Manager’s Office. Please ask the Facility Manager for replacements
* A temperature strip will be applied on the first load of the day for each cage washer in all labs
* To use the strip:
  + Take a new Thermolabel Temperature strip from the package located in the cage wash binder in the dirty cage wash rooms.
  + Peel off backing from strip
  + Place the strip on a clean, dry surface of one of the items in the load (e.g., a mouse box)
  + Run the cage washer on the cycle that’s appropriate for the type of load
  + When the cycle is completed, carefully peel the Temperature Strip off
    - The windows on the Temperature Strip will turn **black** if the water temperature reached 180°F.
  + Place the strip in the cage wash binder in the Temperature Strip section. Record the date, type or contents of the load (e.g., “tree”, “hamster boxes”, etc.), your initials, and any other comments.
  + If the strip remains **white**, the required temperature was not met
    - If the temperature was not met, assume that the wash was not sanitized properly
    - ATP test an item from the load and contact the Facility Manager to determine the sanitation status of the wash
* Report cage washer problems to the Facility Manager who will contact Getinge Signature Services, (800) 950-9912
* Report facilities problems to the Facility Manager who will contact Facilities Services, (406) 243-6091