



Housekeeping

by Michael Hensel

Four easy steps to achieving the “ultimate fold” for hotel towels

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We have all noticed the huge bedding trend by many hotels to add comfort and quality to a guest’s stay, but there are many more amenities in a room than just a bed. One of the most used items during the guest stay is the towel. From the face cloth to the almighty pool towel, an consistent fold can convey a property image of cleanliness and comfort and prolong the life of your hotel’s substantial terry investment.

When thinking of folding, don’t forget volume. On average a 150-room hotel folds about a thousand face cloths, hand towels, and bath towels per day, not to mention bath mats and pool towels. It’s all about production and consistency; by simplifying your folding methods you can save a great deal of time in the laundry area and have a better grasp on quality and consistency. Here is an example of a consistent towel fold.

To start, you will need a flat surface such as six-foot meeting room table. Make sure the table surface is clean, free of sharp edges or gouges, and at the right height for the laundry worker. A heights of 36 inches works best for most employees.

Step 1. Lay the towel completely flat on the table.





Step 2. Take one bottom corner with one hand and the other bottom corner in the other hand and fold one third of the width of the towel.

Step 3. Take one top corner of the towel with one hand and the other top corner with the other hand and fold over the previous fold.





Step 4. Take one end of the folded towel and fold it in half to the other end. Use one hand to bring the end of the towel over and the other hand to divide and keep the towel from wrinkling. You will need to repeat this step for bathroom and pool towels.

The best time to fold towels is as soon as they come out of the dryer. An over-dried towel can feel ruff and unclean, towels should feel a little damp when they come out of the dryer. Keep a good eye on the amount of chemicals and hardness of the water for these can also cause towels to feel rough and coarse.

Unless you have folded a thousand towels in a row one would not think that static electricity could be a problem. When the towels come out of the dryer they are supercharged from all the constant motion. Commercial laundry chemical suppliers such as Ecolab® can provide soft and scented static control blocks that will prevent the unpleasant static shocks and eliminate the metal odors that can come from dryers. ✧

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