



**News Release**  
**Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council**

## **HLAC President: 'Disposable Mindset' Among Biggest Challenges Facing Healthcare Laundry Operations**

PLAINFIELD, IL - Aug. 30, 2016 - The 'disposable mindset' is one of the biggest challenges facing healthcare laundry operations today, according to John Scherberger, president of the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC), a nonprofit organization that inspects and accredits laundries worldwide that process reusable textiles for hospitals, nursing homes and other healthcare facilities.

This mindset, Scherberger said, is "the erroneous belief" among healthcare facility managers - particularly those who have influence over purchasing decisions - that disposable products are preferable to reusable healthcare textile products (HCTs).

Scherberger made his comments in a recent [interview](#) with Senior Editor Bob Kehoe of *Healthcare Facilities Management* (HFM) magazine ("Holding Textile Laundering to a Higher Standard," Aug. 18, 2016).

"The challenge to the laundry of this mindset is obvious," he said. "Disposable healthcare products don't require a laundering process, which can seem appealing to a hospital that is looking to reduce its costs.

"But even though disposables initially may seem less expensive, in a typical life cycle they can be just the opposite," Scherberger continued. "This, despite the fact that the laundering of HCTs is one of the largest costs for a hospital. Disposables are costlier than reusables because of frequency of purchase, disposal as a biohazardous waste, the harm they cause the environment, and the many dangers their use can pose in the health care environment, including the spread of superbugs."

He defined reusables as "virtually everything that's reusable: infection prevention wipers and mops, sheets, towels, bed pads, gowns, mammogram capes, surgical gowns and drapes, and the list goes on."

Scherberger's comments were part of a larger HFM interview in which he discussed HLAC's mission and accreditation process, the impact of health provider consolidation, and how textile processing fits into a hospital's overall responsibility to provide a clean and safe care environment from the operating room to the patient room.

"Doing the laundry' is more likely seen as an expense when, as textile processing, it should be seen as an investment in high-quality patient outcomes," he said. "It is the hospital's responsibility to provide all patients with a safe environment - this includes clean, safe textiles. The quality of HCTs is virtually assured when hospitals work in partnership with accredited laundries."



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### **About HLAC**

The Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC) is a nonprofit organization formed for the purpose of inspecting and accrediting laundries processing healthcare textiles for hospitals, nursing homes and other healthcare facilities. Visit [www.hlacnet.org](http://www.hlacnet.org) and on Twitter [@NewsHlac](https://twitter.com/NewsHlac).

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