Guidance on Laboratory Coat Use, Washing, Decontamination, and Disposal:

- Lab coats should always remain inside the lab
- If lab coats are suspected of contamination, become visible soiled, or deteriorate, it's time to consider your options for laundering or replacing it. To facilitate this choice, please refer to the chart below.
- If your department has an onsite laundering unit dedicated for laboratory use, make use of that unit for laundering your used lab coats. If you don’t have a dedicated laundering unit, you must get your lab coats laundered through an approved laundering service.
- UAB has contracted with Cintas to provide and launder lab coats.
  - Rental service
    - No upfront investment for UAB – Cintas will purchase all new lab coats
    - Each wearer has set # of lab coats
    - 26 cents per lab coat/week
    - On a weekly basis, Cintas route driver picks up dirty sets & drops off clean while wearer has on a coat
    - Cintas will wash, dry and finish laundry
    - Cintas will repair, upgrade and provide size changes at no additional cost
    - Flexible program – if a wearer leaves UAB, we gather the lab coats and remove from the invoice.

Laboratory Coats: Washing, Decontamination, & Disposal

Is the lab coat reusable?

Yes

Is coat known or suspected of being contaminated with hazardous or regulated materials?

No

Is coat known or suspected of being contaminated with hazardous or regulated materials?

No

Place in collection for commercial laboratory coat laundry service

Yes

Dispose in the regular trash

Biological Contamination:
- Decontaminate (autoclave/disinfect) and launder as a non-contaminated lab coat
- Dispose in appropriate biological waste container and order a new coat

Chemical Contamination:
- Contact chemicalsafety@uab.edu

Radiological Contamination:
- If half life is ≤ 60 days, bag label, and store until radioactive counts are indistinguishable from background
- Dispose in appropriate radiological waste container and order a new coat

Dispose in waste stream appropriate for the hazardous work being conducted