

how it WORKS

Reducing Respirable Dust Allergens

Problem: Dumping soiled bedding and waste into open barrels exposes technicians to breathing hazards and increases the risk of exposure to allergens.

It has long been standard practice in many conventional animal areas to dump soiled bedding from rodent cages into open barrels. Although largely free of pathogens, the dust particles are a risk unto themselves. Another concern is that over time, technicians who begin their careers in laboratories without known allergies gradually develop allergies to animal dust and dander. Soiled bedding has unused food particles which may pose risks, feces, urine, hair, and dander – all of which the technician should avoid breathing.

Many institutions have incorporated a bedding dump station to their dirty cage wash areas; however, an equal number still have limited provisions for reducing respirable dust. Particularly problematic are smaller satellite facilities that are not proximate to the cage cleaning areas. Small portable dump stations have largely been unavailable until recent years. Although some dump stations are on casters, their foot print precludes being seen as truly point-of-use.

Solution: The Dirty Bedding Dump/Dust Reduction Station (MOHEP), from Park Bioservices, LLC, reduces exposure to airborne allergens given off by respirable dust particles in soiled bedding from dumping rodent cages into open barrels.

MOHEP is designed to protect technicians from breathing airborne particles of waste bedding, dander, animal waste, and food particles when dumping dirty caging. The MOHEP is specifically designed for non-quarantine situations and is constructed of impact resistant Polypropylene and acrylic. Room air, dust, particulate, and gaseous vapors are pulled through the dump orifice and then through filters by a 110 Volt/ 60 Hz blower operating at 140+ CFM. HEPA exhaust is standard. MOHEP can be easily moved to and from the work area with the casters that are supplied. Since it is only marginally bigger than a 33 gallon plastic barrel, standard in most facilities, it is ideal when space is at a premium.

The core of what makes the MOHEP work is a unique collar that surrounds the edge of the waste barrel. The collar has air slots that draw air and consequently respirable dust particles through the plenum areas to be trapped in a pre-filter. All air exhausted is then passed through a HEPA filter so that allergens and dust are completely trapped. Since the technician continues to dump cages as they have in the past, their work routine is not further complicated yet they have the benefit of greatly reduced exposure.

For more information on the MOHEP station go to www.parkbio.com



▲ Dirty Bedding Dump/Dust Reduction Station (MOHEP)

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