

Standard Operating Procedure for Sanitation of Aquatic Tanks and Equipment

Purpose

To ensure sanitation of the zebrafish tanks and the safety of the employees, the following standard operating procedure has been written.

Procedure

1. The FLSC basement Schyler cage wash unit is set up for a hypochlorite wash and rinse cycles only.
2. No mammal caging is to be washed on hypochlorite.
3. Zebrafish tanks and equipment are loaded onto the universal or the flat cart. Select Cycle 1 or 2.
4. Xenopus and other frog sp. caging and equipment are loaded onto a flat cart only. Cycle 4 is used and set at a lower hypochlorite dispense rate and longer rinse time than Cycle 1 & 2 for zebrafish.
5. Caging is inspected after cleaning and will be run through another cycle if caging is visibly soiled.
6. If caging remains soiled after a third wash cycle, use a brush and water to break up algae deposits before washing in the cage wash machine again.
7. All shrimp hatcheries are washed by hand.
 - a. Bleach solution (1:10) is used to clean shrimp hatcheries.
 - b. Bleach solution is stable for up to 24 hours.
 - c. Hatcheries are rinsed with clear water for 10-15 minutes allowing the water to fill and overflow the container.
 - d. Empty the water and allow hatcheries to dry before use.
8. All aquatic tanks and equipment are cleaned every 8 weeks or more often due to algae growth. The exception is tree frog tanks. Tree frog tanks are changed and washed twice a month.
9. All nets are cleaned monthly using a hypochlorite cycle.
10. Plastic plants for enrichment are cleaned at least twice monthly. Soak all plastic plants in hot water for 15 minutes. Rinse and allow to air dry prior to use.

Precautions

1. Refer to the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Policy for specific PPE required for sanitizing aquatic tanks and equipment.
2. When working with a bleach solution wear shoulder length vinyl gloves, a chemical resistant apron and safety glasses under a full face shield.
3. All zebrafish and frog tanks use a NO HEAT cycle. See Pro Schyler Cycles CH.