

**1. PURPOSE**

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This Standard Operating procedure (SOP) describes the maintenance of a passive watering system.

**2. RESPONSIBILITY**

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Principal investigator (PI) and their research staff are responsible for each of the steps described below.

**3. PROCEDURES**

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1. Fill a clean water container with fresh tap water, autoclave and add 2 ml of bleach/10 L of water. (responsibility of the PI and research staff in the lab)
2. Connect the container to the water line and fill it by connecting a tube at the end and letting it drain in a waste container. (responsibility of the PI and research staff in the lab)
3. Every day, drain the line as described above (about 100 ml). (responsibility of the PI and research staff in the lab)
4. Every other week, replace with a new water tank filled with tap water, autoclaved and added with 2mL of bleach/10mL of water (as in step 1). (responsibility of the PI and research staff in the lab)
5. In between cohorts of animals (i.e. In absence of animals), fill the container with hot water and bleach (100mL/10L), connect it to the water line, fill it and let stand for 20 minutes. Let drain the container completely through the water line. Drain the line dry until next use. (responsibility of the PI and research staff in the lab)
6. After cleaning the cage, immerge the valve in a hot water and bleach solution (1:80) for 20 minutes by filling the cage above the valve. Rinse with fresh water and let dry. Keep in a clean container until next use. (responsibility of the PI and research staff in the lab)
7. Every 3 months, collect a water sample for microbiological monitoring (responsibility of the PI and research staff in the lab):
  - a. Wipe the watering valve from the last cage on the line with a gauze and peroxygard.
  - b. With a clean glove wiped with peroxygard, press the valve lever and let water flow for 30-60 secondes (in a waste container).
  - c. Collect approx. 50 ml of water in a sterile container and submit to the lab for microbiological analysis.