

Laundry

By Suzy Hopkins

So, you think you have laundry issues?

All California prisons have a large population of non-violent offenders who live in a minimum security facility within the prison grounds. These people have jobs such as cooks, janitors, file clerks and are necessary for the function the prison. One of the jobs is doing laundry for the 3,000 other inmates at each facility. Upon incarceration each person is given two sets of clothes: shirts, trousers, socks, briefs and t-shirts and a mesh bag to put their laundry in. Once a week this mesh bag, with their prison number stamped on it, is sent to the laundry. That set of their clothes is washed and dried *in this mesh bag*. If they are lucky, they will get their clean laundry back in a week. Meanwhile, the inmates can wash their underwear in their toilet in their cell with hand soap. The condition of their clothes upon their return varies, depending on how careful the inmate in charge was, on that day. Good luck! 3,000 loads of laundry would dampen anyone's enthusiasm for being careful and inmates are some of the most incompetent, uncaring workers.

I hope this information helps you appreciate what you do have.