



AUTOCLAVE SAFETY PROCEDURES FOR THE WORKPLACE

General Procedures

Liquids: Liquids must be in containers with two times the capacity to accommodate for boiling during the cycle. ex: 1 L of media will require a flask of 2 L. Never seal a liquid container with a cork or stopper. Use foil or leave screw caps loosely fitted on top of the bottle.

Waste and Sharps: Sharps are to be put into a puncture-resistant disposable container, not an autoclave bag. Never overfill the autoclave bag. When the bag is full, it should be handled from the top.

The Autoclave: Never overload your autoclave. Never mix clean items with contaminated items during the same cycle. Use indicator tape with each load to verify it has been autoclaved at a high enough temperature.



Loading Procedures

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Wear lab coat, gloves and preferably safety glasses when loading autoclave.

Inserting Materials: Load *autoclavable material* in polypropylene, polycarbonate or stainless steel secondary container. Close door tightly.

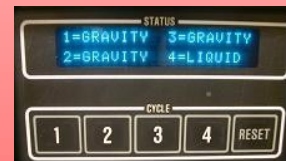


Autoclave Cycles:

LIQUID: (*slow exhaust*) Steam is exhausted slowly at end of cycle, allowing super-heated liquids to cool. (**Media**)

GRAVITY/DRY: (*fast exhaust*) Chamber is at set temperature for set period of time. At end of cycle, valve opens and chamber rapidly returns to atmospheric pressure. (**Glassware, Waste**)

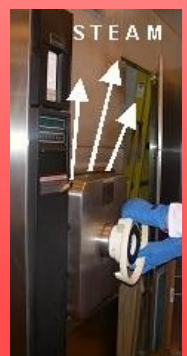
Time: Select time for cycle (at least 20 minutes). Press “START” or “RUN CYCLE.”



Unloading Procedures

OPENING DOOR: Make sure that gauge is at 0 PSIG before opening door. Wearing lab coat, heat-resistant gloves and preferably safety glasses, stand at arms length and slowly open door one inch.

REMOVAL: Let autoclave vent and cool for at least *1-2 minutes* after cycle, then remove autoclaved materials.



Maintenance

Out of Service: If the autoclave is not operating properly, please notify the vendor and post the “DO NOT USE” sign on the front of the autoclave to avoid others from using the machine.

Spore Testing: Conduct sterility testing on a regular basis using *Bacillus stearothermophilus* spore strips.