

## Guide to Sterilization Times



- Estimate autoclaving time on the volume of liquid that will be in **each** container (not the total volume of liquid that you are autoclaving).
- Start timing once the autoclave chamber temperature reaches 121°C.
- Add additional autoclave time for:
  - ❑ Plastic spill tray - add 5 min.
  - ❑ Large load (many containers/small space between bottles) - add 10 to 15 min.
  - ❑ Using plastic containers - add 5 min.

Volume (ml) in each container	Time
75-200	20
200-500	25
500-1000	30
1000-1500	35
1500-2000	40

Note: These times are approximate and should serve as guidelines. You may need to make adjustments based on you autoclave and type of liquid.

## Additional Tips

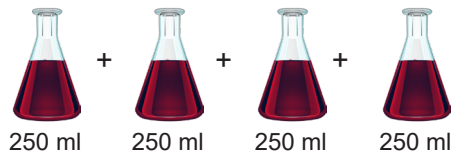
- Is it possible to autoclave too long?
  - ❑ Yes - nutrients in media can break down when autoclaved too long. Use the same size and/or shape containers when you are autoclaving media.
- The smaller the volume of liquid in each container, the shorter time it will take for the liquid to reach 121° C.

### Total volume of media

### Container choice

### Autoclave time needed

1000 ml media divided into four 250 ml flasks



= 25 minutes

1000 ml media in one 2000 ml flask



= 35 minutes