

Do's and Do Not's of Autoclaving

Do

- Wear personal protective equipment: a laboratory coat, closed-toe shoes, face protection, and heat resistant gloves.

- Add water to dry loads.

- Autoclave everything in leak-proof containers

- Leave space between bottles.

- Leave bags of autoclave waste open so steam can penetrate all areas of the bag.

- Use autoclave tape with each load and on every bag of waste.

- Allow the pressure in the autoclave to reach zero before opening door.

- Use indicators to validate the autoclave is working properly.

Do Not

- Place bags of autoclaved materials in garbage bins unless they have been placed in black garbage bags.

- Tighten caps completely on bottles.

- Overload the autoclave chamber.

- Fill bottles of liquid completely.

- Dispose of contaminated sharps without first autoclaving them.

- Forget to record your autoclave usage in a log book.