

Standard Operating Procedure for Use of the Autoclave

Hazards	Precautions
Biohazard material and sharp objects	Wear proper PPE (gloves, goggles and lab coat). Dispose of sharp objects separately from normal waste in a clearly labeled container.
Build-up of pressure within a tightly capped bottle	Never cap the waste bottle tightly. Make sure the cap is loose to allow release of pressure when heated.
Autoclaving used apparatus that includes sharp objects.	Dispose of sharp objects separately from the normal waste.
Hot gases and surfaces when removing material from autoclave.	Remove material only after the autoclave has cooled completely.

Using the autoclave:

1. Check that water level in the autoclave is sufficient; it should just cover the base.
2. Check that water level in the container, located at the lower right of the autoclave, is between the minimum and maximum level (Figure 1).
3. Check that level of water in container located behind autoclave is not overflowing (Figure 2).
4. Stick autoclave tape onto the containers (bottles, bags and apparatus) that are to contain the biomaterials.
5. Place biomaterials into the autoclave.
6. Ensure that containers with liquids are not more than half-filled, and container caps are loosened. Ensure that autoclave bags are not tied up, to allow steam to penetrate.
7. Close and lock the lid of the autoclave by sliding it to the left.
8. Press mode 3 (solid – 121 °C, 20 min), then press 'Start'.

After autoclaving:

1. Press 'Stop'. Slide the handle to the right to lift up the lid.
2. Check that the autoclave tape has turned black.
3. For liquid waste, tighten the cap and remove the container from the autoclave. It can be disposed of into the sink.
4. For solid waste, tie the autoclave bag and place the autoclave bag into another garbage bag. It can then be disposed of as normal waste.

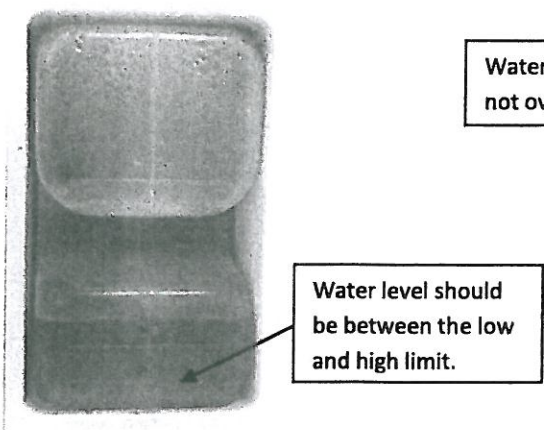


Figure 1. Container located at bottom right of autoclave.

Water level should not overflow.

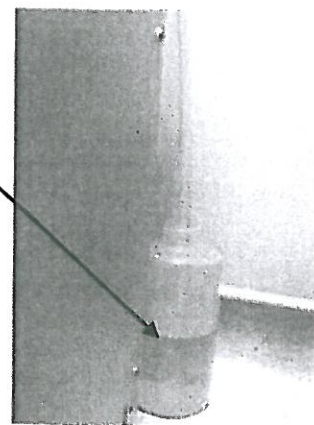


Figure 2. Container behind autoclave.

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