

This notice has been developed because of safety concerns about the use of autoclaves, especially when liquids are being processed.

WARNING - - Autoclave Users

A Safety Reminder

1. Every user should strictly use the autoclave following the manufacturer's guidance.
2. New users should have their supervisor/P.I. or an experienced user who autoclaves similar items explain the autoclave cycles and safety precautions to be followed.
3. Most plastics will melt in the autoclave. Thus, the autoclave pans which you should be using to contain your autoclave load must be metal or made of polypropylene. Most plastics will melt during autoclaving. Commercial autoclave bags are made of polypropylene.
4. The autoclave manual is normally located behind the lower panel. It is missing; a new copy has been requested and will be put there when it arrives. Please use it as a good reference. It should be kept in the room and returned to the lower panel when you are finished.

DANGER - - Autoclaving Liquids

1. See the Yellow Warning Card posted on the side wall when you autoclave liquids.
2. Any pressure produced when liquids are being autoclaved must be able to vent so that the container does not become pressurized. Also, when liquids are being autoclaved, make sure you use the autoclave's liquid cycle.
3. Liquid containers should be inside an open secondary container to minimize spills and facilitate removal and handling. Don't rush the cooling cycles; don't open the door early. Safety glasses with side shields and/or safety goggles along with a faceshield should be worn when handling autoclaved liquids. Your insulated gloves should be of a type that will shed liquid and fit so that they can be quickly slipped off in case the hot liquid contaminates the gloves.

Additional Questions

Please call the Environmental Health and Safety Office at x2723.