

SAFELY AUTOCLAVING WASTE

EXAMPLES OF APPROPRIATE PPE FOR USE WITH AUTOCLAVES

- Face shield, lab coat, gloves



- Thermal gloves for handling dry surfaces



BIOLOGICAL SAFETY OFFICE

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A U T O C L A V E H A Z A R D S

- **Burns** from hot metal, hot liquid , or steam.
- **Pressure release** (leak around door, steam on before door is closed, malfunctioning autoclave)
- **Lacerations** from broken glass
- **Biohazard exposures** (improper packaging for autoclaving, inappropriate time/pressure settings, incomplete/malfunctioning autoclaving process).

S A F E T Y P R A C T I C E S

- **Train** all users according to the manufacturers instructions.
- Conduct routine **inspection** and **maintenance**. In University buildings, contact Facilities Maintenance (684-2121), In medical center buildings, contact Engineering and Operations (684-3232).
- Use **Personal Protective Equipment** (PPE) appropriate for the hazard.
 - Long sleeved lab coat, long pants and closed-toe shoes.
 - Safety glasses, goggles or face shield.
 - Gloves: nitrile or latex under Thermal or liquid proof thermal gloves.
- Use biohazard sharps containers (closed when 2/3 filled and placed within an orange autoclave bag. Use orange biohazard waste bags that are **made for autoclaving** for non-sharp solid waste. Unapproved materials can break or melt.
- Loosely close orange autoclavable bag(s) using an elastic or autoclavable tape to allow for steam penetration and venting. Keep **loads small** and place bag(s) into secondary **autoclavable trays/bins** to contain spills or leaks.
- **Select the cycle** on the autoclave that is set for **90 minutes at 250oF (121oC), 15 psi**. All autoclavable bags must be contained within a secondary autoclavable tray/bin to contain leaks within the autoclave. Do not pour heated agarose down the drain. Open the door only when the cycle is complete and allowed to **cool before removing items**. Autoclaved bags are transported within a leak-proof secondary container (trash can, cart, bin, etc.) to the building's outside trash dumpster. Autoclave biohazard bags and sharps containers are purchased either by the PI or the department. Please contact your respective departments for more information.