
The supervisor for each laboratory needs to develop and implement an autoclave safety training program. All users shall be trained before operating an autoclave; the supervisor is responsible for insuring that each person in the lab is appropriately trained. All training must be documented and the records maintained in the lab with other safety training materials. These records will be reviewed during during an Environmental Health and Safety Inspection.

Autoclave maintenance is essential for a safe and properly functioning autoclave. The manufacturer's recommendations should be followed for preventative maintenance. All contractors hired to perform regular maintenance and repairs should be approved by the manufacturer. Each autoclave user is responsible for ensuring the autoclave is monitored as

Documentation records of any autoclave preventative maintenance/repairs and validations shall be maintained.

been selected before starting the cycle.

III. Opening

8. Wear the proper PPE, including heat resistant gloves, lab coat, eye protection and close toed shoes when opening the autoclave door after a cycle. If there is a sharps hazard (e.g. biological waste), wear heat and cut resistant gloves.
9. When the cycle is complete, open the door slowly. Keep your head, face and hands away from the opening.

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1. When running an autoclave cycle with liquids, the cycle time is longer but uses lower temperatures to minimize evaporation of the liquids. Liquid cycles also have a longer depressurization time to avoid boil-over of liquids.
 2. To prevent bottles from shattering during the pressurization, the caps of containers with liquids must be loosened before loading.
 3. Use only borosilicate glass (Pyrex™ or Kimax™) which can withstand the high autoclave temperatures.
 4. Use a heat resistant autoclave tray with a solid bottom and

3. Before removing autoclaved items, wait 5 minutes after the cycle

