

Autoclaves

Steris (PSC 545, 645)

Amsco Steam autoclaves (NSC 484)

General Steam Autoclave Warnings:

Every time you use the autoclaves, you MUST sign-in and sign-out of the appropriate logbook.

Do not under any circumstance stop someone's cycle before it is done.

Do not leave anything in the autoclave rooms.

Dispose of biohazardous waste in the black trashcans that are provided and do not overfill.

Do NOT use the red biohazard bins as storage containers; they are to be used only for transporting biohazardous waste that needs sterilizing from your lab to the autoclave rooms.

Steam Autoclaves

Contact PSC: Sonja Stovall or Gemeia Cameron (404) 413-5363

Contact NSC: Chip Foster (404) 413-5361

Common Autoclave Rules

1. Every lab was given stainless steel trays – use them. All items to be sterilized, whether wet or dry, MUST be placed in a stainless steel tray. NO lab is exempt. NEVER place anything directly on the racks, in the autoclave chambers, nor ever in plastic bins when using the autoclaves.
2. Both NSC and PSC stockrooms have biohazard bags and boxes. They are also brown biohazard boxes and bags near the drop off location.
3. Do NOT overfill biohazard bags. You should be able to close the bag. Use a rubber band or loosely tape the bag. Do not twist the bag, it won't sterilize properly if the bag is sealed. Place the bag into the black trash bins immediately after autoclaving.
4. Do NOT fill bottles more than half full of liquids. The pressure and temperature within the chamber will cause the liquids to boil over into the chambers.
5. Do NOT tighten caps, lids, and/or tops onto bottles & containers. The chamber pressure will cause the bottles to explode inside the chamber & lids to permanently seal to its container.
6. When autoclaving liquids, fill the stainless steel tray with a very small amount of water. This helps balance out the pressure of the containers within the chamber, while in sterilization.
7. Sharps containers should NOT ever, under any circumstances be stored in the autoclave rooms. All sharps containers upon being autoclaved MUST be placed into red Biohazard bags, and placed into the Biohazard brown cardboard boxes, sealed, and taken to the appropriate locale of the building on

the 1st floor in freight elevator hallway (PSC) and 2nd floor near freight elevator (NSC) for disposal pickup after 1:00 pm on Tuesdays & before 8:00 am on Wednesdays. This is the only time slot that the boxes can be left.

8. Do not use the small autoclaves to sterilize excessively large loads; heat will not adequately circulate throughout your load for thorough sterility, if the chamber capacity is overwhelmed. Use the large autoclaves for larger loads; however, small loads are permitted in the large autoclaves ONLY when the small autoclave is either unoccupied and/or temporarily out-of-service.
9. Do not place anything on the floor.
10. Pick your items up in a timely manner.
11. If the autoclaves are in use, sign-in as “waiting” status; however, take your stuff back to your lab.
12. Be sure that the autoclave area is left in an orderly condition. All spills must be properly cleaned, debris must be properly disposed of, and all glassware etc. removed in a timely manner.
13. Be patient. If the outside pressure is not at least 15 lb. (see below), the cycle won’t start and you will get an alarm indicating the door is not sealed. (NOTE: If the aforementioned occurs, abort the cycle, open the door, and restart the cycle).
14. **Do Not** trouble-shoot autoclave issues. If there is an issue with the equipment, notify either Gemeia Cameron or Sonja Stovall.

Steris Large Autoclaves (PSC 545, 645, 745)

1. If you are the first user of the day, the large autoclave needs to have the outside chamber pressure up to a minimum of 15 lb and up to 21lb. Close the door and allow enough Pressure to build within the Chamber and Jacket (~5 minutes) before starting the cycle.
2. Place items to be sterilized into a stainless steel tray.
3. Align & properly secure the large carrier (cart) to the large autoclave prior to loading trays onto cage (large rack).
4. Place tray(s) into the carrier’s cage, release the cage by pushing down the small lever to the left of the carrier, & guide the cage completely into the autoclave.
5. Unlock & Release the carrier by pulling the large black knob located off-center, right of the carrier & then pull the carrier back and away from the autoclave PRIOR to attempting to close the autoclave door.
6. On the Main Menu screen of the autoclave, Press: Close Door. The display will indicate that the door is closed.
7. Press: Select cycle. Select 1 -> 6. Upon selecting a #, you can see what the temp. and sterilization time are for the selected cycle. (Note: If you want to select another cycle, Press: Previous to take you back to the cycle selection screen). Once you verify the appropriate cycle # you require, Press: Start Cycle.

8. Timer will show indicating how long the run will be. It's pretty accurate. The door will partially open and a 10 min. timer will start for autoclave vent. (you can bypass this delay, if needed).
9. Sign into the appropriate logbook & take your lab cart back to your lab until returning.
10. Once your cycle is complete, Press: Open Door.
11. Push the carrier into the autoclave & Align with the autoclave shelving to secure (lock). Slide the cage out of the autoclave & onto the carrier until it locks onto the carrier.
12. Using your heat resistant gloves, mitts, etc. Remove tray(s) from cage. (Note: You can leave the carrier with cage locked into the autoclave when finish removing items).
13. Be sure to sign-out in the appropriate logbook.

Steris Small Autoclaves (PSC 545, 645, 745)

1. If you are the first user of the day, the large autoclave needs to have the outside chamber pressure up to a minimum of 15 lb and up to 21lb. Allow to build enough Pressure within the Chamber and Jacket (~5 minutes) before starting the cycle.
2. Place items to be sterilized into a stainless steel tray.
3. Align & properly secure the small carrier to the small autoclave prior to loading trays onto cages.
4. Place tray(s) into the carrier's cage, release the cage by pulling up the small lever in the center of the carrier, & guide the cage completely into the autoclave.
5. Unlock & Release the carrier by pushing the large silver knob located off-center, right of the carrier & then pull the carrier back and away from the autoclave PRIOR to attempting to close the autoclave door.
6. On the Main Menu screen of the autoclave, Press: Close Door. The display will indicate that the door is closed. **(NOTE: For the small autoclave in PSC 745, Close door by using the foot pedal near floor on the right).**
7. Press: Select cycle. Select 1 -> 6. Upon selecting a #, you can see what the temp. and sterilization time are for the selected cycle. (Note: If you want to select another cycle, Press: Previous to take you back to the cycle selection screen). Once you verify the appropriate cycle # you require, Press: Start Cycle.
8. Timer will show indicating how long the run will be. It's pretty accurate. The door will partially open and a 10 min. timer will start for autoclave vent. (you can bypass this delay, if needed).
9. Sign into the appropriate logbook & take your lab cart back to your lab until returning.
10. Once your cycle is complete, Press: Open Door. **(NOTE: For the small autoclave in PSC 745, Open door by using the foot pedal).**

11. Push the carrier to the autoclave & Align with the autoclave shelving to secure. Slide the cage out of the autoclave & onto the carrier until it locks onto the carrier.
12. Using your heat resistant gloves, mitts, etc. Remove tray(s) from cage. (Note: You can leave the carrier with cage locked into the autoclave when finish removing items).
13. Be sure to sign-out in the appropriate logbook.

Amsco 3041-S (large autoclave, NSC 484)

1. Place stainless steel trays onto large rack.
2. Release rack by pulling small black lever to the left of the cart.
3. Release cart by pulling large black knob. Move cart away from the door.
4. Close door and tighten wheel.
5. Follow directions for Steris large and small autoclaves above.

Amsco SG-120 (small autoclave, NSC 484)

1. Place stainless steel trays onto rack.
2. Push rack into autoclave and move cart away from autoclave door.
3. **Close door by using pedal near floor on the right.**
4. Select cycle.
5. Select one of the cycles and the display will show the sterilization time and vent time for the run. Go to Previous if you want to look at another choice.
6. Start cycle.
7. Timer will show indicating how long the run will be. It's pretty accurate.
8. Once your cycle is done, **use the foot pedal to open the door.**