

Autoclave Material Prep – Quick Guide

1. Prepare the material

Does the material contain flammables, solvents, or corrosive chemicals (e.g. ethanol, phenol)?

Yes

No ↓

Does the material contain oils, waxes, or radioactivity?

Yes

No ↓

Does the material contain >3% saline or other chlorinated compounds (i.e. HCl, PVC, bleach)?

Yes

No ↓

Material can not be autoclaved

Place material in a leak-proof, labelled container (include all chemical & biological information)
Containers available at Science Stores



Once ¾ full contact

health.safety@uregina.ca for disposal

Contact Microbiology Technician if you need to autoclave >3% saline or chlorinated compounds

2. Package the material

Step 1: Waste must be autoclaved in a separate load from items to be sterilized

Step 2: Liquids and solid materials must be autoclaved in separate loads

Step 3: Find proper primary containers:

Primary containers should be heat resistant, puncture resistant, and waterproof. Examples include:

- borosilicate glass (Pyrex)
- polypropylene (PP) and polycarbonate (PC) plastics
- Teflon (PTFE)
- Stainless steel
- Polypropylene biohazard bags

Step 4: Fill primary containers only ¾ full.

Step 5: Close primary containers, **DO NOT** seal.

All primary containers must be *unsealed* by loosening screw or vent caps, capping open containers loosely with aluminum foil, plastic bags should have an opening of 3+ fingers width

Step 6: Place primary container into proper secondary container: Heat resistant secondary containers must be large enough to contain any primary container leaks. **Must be made of PP and PC plastics only.**

Step 7: Do not overload secondary container: Separate items in secondary container. Leave sufficient room for steam circulation.

Step 8: Temperature sensitive tape must be affixed to every bag and individual item

