

Preparation of Materials to be Autoclaved

1) Bottles of liquid: Fill glass bottles 1/2 to 2/3 full of liquid (water used should be filtered water). Cap bottles but leave lids slightly loose. Put a small strip of autoclave tape on each lid. The “wet” setting is used for liquids.

2) Tubes: Fill autoclave pouches about 2/3 full with tubes. Do not overfill. Close according to directions on pouch. The “dry” setting is used for non-liquids.

3) Evidence examination tools: Clean tools with bleach and proprietary solvent or alcohol, then let dry completely before placing into autoclave pouches. Close according to directions on pouch. The “dry” setting is used for non-liquids.

Operation of Autoclave (Yamato SM300 Sterilizer)

1) Fill autoclave to appropriate level (between the two notches in the platform at the bottom) with filtered water. Make sure the sensor buoy is upright and floating in the center of the platform. Fill or drain the water in the plastic bottle if needed (appropriate water level is indicated on autoclave). Line the bottoms of the baskets with paper towels (this prevents the pouches from molding). Stack items to be autoclaved in baskets, fold down basket handles, and stack baskets in autoclave. They should stack levelly. Close the autoclave door and turn the wheel to shut tightly.

2) Correct settings (see below) should be saved, so just press “enter” to start autoclave.

3) Wait until temperature gauge is displaying a safe temperature and pressure gauge is at 0 PSI before opening autoclave. Remove autoclaved items and check to see that indicators (autoclave tape or color indicator on pouches) have changed so as to indicate that sterilization was effective. Let bottles of liquid cool, then tighten caps. Dry pouches of tubes or tools in 56°C incubator, if needed.

4) Several batches may be autoclaved in tandem without draining autoclave; however, if autoclave is done being used for the day, it should be drained.

Autoclave settings:

Sterilize Cycle

Temperature: 121°C