

Autoclaves/Sterilizers

Recognize the potential for burns or cuts while handling or sorting hot sterilized items or sharp instruments, and use caution when removing them from autoclaves/sterilizers or from steam lines that service the autoclaves.

Use appropriate hand protection when hands are exposed to hazards such as cuts, lacerations or thermal burns. Using oven mitts for handling hot items, and steel mesh gloves for handling or sorting sharp instruments are examples of appropriate PPE.

Establish good work practices to prevent injuries from occurring:

- Ensure that the autoclave/sterilizer door is closed and locked before beginning the cycle.
- Do not remove items from an autoclave/sterilizer until they have cooled.
- Avoid handling the sharp ends of instruments.
- Use forceps or other tools to remove sharp instruments from baskets and autoclaves.

