

**HARVARD UNIVERSITY**

**HARVARD FOREST**

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## **Harvard Forest Autoclave Protocol**

1. Prepare items to be placed into autoclave. Any containers with liquids should be sealed using foil. Place a piece of autoclave tape on the items. (Autoclave tape is located near the machine).
2. Add water (4-6 quarts or just below the "caution" line) into the autoclave chamber.
3. Push the red Reset Button.
4. Load sterilizer. Be sure to put items in the Nalgene container (preloaded into sterilizer).

Note: This reduces spills into the autoclave base.

5. Select the exhaust type (fast = instruments or slow = liquids).
6. Close the door. Be sure to tightly seal it.
7. Set Timer. This turns the autoclave on. (The timer light will turn on and begin count down once the appropriate temperature and pressure are achieved.).
8. Once the cycle is complete, the timer light will remain on until the temperature and pressure are within a safe handling range. Once the timer light turns off, it is safe to open the door (the pressure should be 0). Open door only after it is safe to handle.
9. Remove sterilized items wearing proper orange safety gloves (If you used autoclave tape, the white stripes should now be black indicating the sterilization process was successful.).
10. Empty the chamber of water by opening the drain (turn knob 90° to the right, found below the door handle). Close drain on all the water is removed.
11. Leave door open allowing chamber to air dry.

**LABEL IT OR LOSE IT!**