

# Sterilising Laboratory Plastic ware Autoclaving

Before sterilising any laboratory plastic ware, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Make sure that the item is clean and has no contamination or residue present - this could destroy plastics during the autoclaving process
- Observe the tolerated temperature ranges of plastic (see table below)
- Plastic vessels should be autoclaved separately from their closures and other fittings. Remove any stoppers, fittings or caps from plastic ware prior to autoclaving. Autoclaving vessels with closures in place can lead to deformation and destruction of the vessels

Plastic	Autoclavable	Gas Sterilisable (Ethylene Oxide)	Dry Sterilisable at 160°C	Chemically Sterilisable (in Formalin)	Sterilizable by Gamma radiation	Microwaves
ABS	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
HDPE	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
LDPE	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
PC	Yes*	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
PFA/FEP	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
PMP (TPX®)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
PP	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
PS	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
PTFE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
ETFE/E-CTFE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
PVE	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes

\*Autoclavable at 121°C for a period of 20 mins

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\*Taken and adapted from the Kartell Labware Catalogue 2008/2009 page 142

6 Wakefield Road,  
 Founders View South,  
 Tel: 011 452 1580. Fax 011 452 7648  
 Email: [jhb@plastpro.co.za](mailto:jhb@plastpro.co.za) Web: [www.plastpro.co.za](http://www.plastpro.co.za)

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