

Steam Sterilization and Cleaning Instructions **for polycarbonate bottle/flask**

The Polycarbonate Labware is manufactured with virgin Lexan® polycarbonate that is designed to withstand repeated steam sterilization. The following instructions are provided to aid in successfully using your labware as an ideal alternative to glass.

For Filled Bottles or Flasks: Loosen the cap so it is barely engaged and sterilize according to the lab protocol in a steam autoclave. Do not use a dry autoclave. Allow the vessels and content to cool to 55°C or lower before securing the cap. Tightening caps on hot bottles will lead to distortion of the bottle as the content cools down. The recommended sterilization temperature is 121°C at 15 psig, up to 60 minutes.

For Empty Containers: The caps should be removed from the vessels and sterilized in autoclave bags. As with glassware, cover the necks and tops of the flasks/bottles with aluminum foil. The foil should be crimped tightly enough so it does not fall off during autoclaving. A small piece of autoclave indicator tape should be used to secure the foil to the vessel, and to indicate the vessel has been exposed to steam.

Caution: The bottles/flasks may “implode” due to rapid exhaust setting (sudden change in temperature and pressure). For best results, use a slow exhaust cycle on the sterilizer.

Cleaning: Use warm tap water and a solution of mild soap or household detergent. Rinse with distilled or deionized water and allow to air dry. Do not use a drying oven. It is safe on the polycarbonate to perform a final rinse with isopropyl alcohol.

DO NOT OVER STERILIZE. POLYCARBONATE SHOULD NOT BE STERILIZED AT TEMPERATURES HIGHER THAN 129 °C, OR IN A DRY AUTOCLAVE.