AUTOCLAVING FLOWCHART

Do the items that you want to autoclave contain any of the following:
- flammable liquids (ethanol, methanol, acetone, etc.)
- toxic or reactive chemicals
- bleach
- radioactive isotopes
- animal carcasses or large blocks of tissue

STOP!
- Do not autoclave these materials. Contact Denise Kind (x6298) or Mat Ashby (x5622) for assistance.

**Are you autoclaving only solid items, such as new pipet tips, empty glassware, Pasteur pipets, forceps, scissors, etc.?**

- **NO**
  - **Place bag in bin or tray. Add 100-200 mL water to bag just prior to placing in autoclave (to generate steam within bag during cycle). Close bag loosely.**
  - Autoclave for 35 minutes using a gravity cycle. After cycle is finished, place bag in gray Autoclaved Waste Disposal bin next to autoclave.

- **YES**
  - **Place items in a tray and ensure that caps are not tightly sealed (containers may explode). Separate items to allow steam circulation.**
  - **Is the maximum volume in any given tube or bottle <500 mL?**
    - **NO**
      - **Is the maximum volume in any given tube or bottle >500 mL?**
        - **YES**
          - Autoclave for 35 minutes on liquid cycle. NOTE: very large volumes may require longer times.
        - **NO**
          - Autoclave for 20 minutes on liquid cycle.
      - **YES**
        - Autoclave for 20 minutes using a gravity cycle.
    - **YES**
      - Autoclave for 20 minutes using a gravity cycle.

**Are you autoclaving liquids or a combination of liquids and solid items?**

- **NO**
  - **Are you autoclaving solid waste in an autoclave bag, such as contaminated agar plates, gloves, tips, swabs?**
    - **NO**
      - **Place items on tray and ensure that any lids are not tightly sealed. Separate objects so that steam can circulate completely around them.**
      - Autoclave for 20 minutes using a gravity cycle.
    - **YES**
      - **Place bag in bin or tray. Add 100-200 mL water to bag just prior to placing in autoclave (to generate steam within bag during cycle). Close bag loosely.**
      - Autoclave for 35 minutes using a gravity cycle. After cycle is finished, place bag in gray Autoclaved Waste Disposal bin next to autoclave.
  - **YES**
    - **Are you autoclaving solids or a combination of solids and liquids, such as contaminated agar plates, gloves, tips, swabs?**
      - **NO**
        - **Place items in a tray and ensure that caps are not tightly sealed (containers may explode). Separate items to allow steam circulation.**
        - **Is the maximum volume in any given tube or bottle <500 mL?**
          - **NO**
            - **Is the maximum volume in any given tube or bottle >500 mL?**
              - **YES**
                - Autoclave for 35 minutes on liquid cycle. NOTE: very large volumes may require longer times.
              - **NO**
                - Autoclave for 20 minutes on liquid cycle.
          - **YES**
            - Autoclave for 20 minutes using a gravity cycle.
        - **YES**
          - Autoclave for 20 minutes using a gravity cycle.