Autoclaves/Sterilizers

Hazards

• potential for burns or cuts while handling or sorting hot sterilized items or sharp instruments

• 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.
Autoclaves/Sterilizers

Things to pay attention

• 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.