

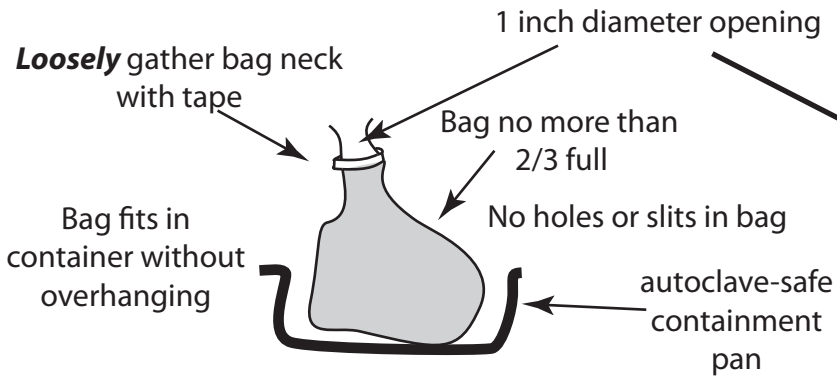
# General Autoclave Guidelines

- All materials must be autoclaved in an autoclave-safe pan (not cardboard) that can contain any spills. All material **MUST** fit within the container without overhanging the edges.
- If autoclaving liquids, **NEVER** tightly cap the bottle. Add ~1 inch of deionized (**NOT tap**) water to containment pan to prevent bottles from shattering due to thermal stress (residual chlorine in tap water will, over time, corrode the autoclave chamber).
- Autoclave waste bags must be only loosely closed with tape, with a 1-inch diameter opening to allow steam to enter and hot gases to escape bag. **Do not punch holes in the bag as liquid can drip out.** Position bag neck properly so no liquid in the bag can drip out onto the autoclave floor. Place a piece of autoclave indicator tape on the outside of the bag to show autoclaving success.
- **Never autoclave anything that contains bleach** or been exposed to bleach. When autoclaved, this produces toxic products that quickly corrode the autoclave.
- Position container in center of autoclave, with nothing touching the side or rear walls of the autoclave.
- Before and after an autoclave run, be in the habit of checking the condition of the autoclave walls and floor. If there are any spills, note this on the autoclave log and immediately call the bio shop. Spilled material corrodes the stainless steel lining of the autoclave.
- After waste has been autoclaved (**NOT before!!**), tie a tight knot in the bag neck before disposal in the proper bin to prevent spills.
- Log your name, time of autoclave use, your lab affiliation, and type of cycle used on the appropriate log in the room.

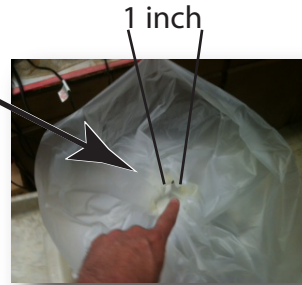
Use common sense! If a waste bag is puffed up after autoclaving, or has burst, you didn't leave an opening! If the bag exploded, or there is a spill on the floor of the autoclave, this will eat the stainless steel of the autoclave if not immediately cleaned, so write this in the log and ASAP inform the bio shop!!

# Autoclaving waste guidelines

If autoclaving waste, use the proper waste bag. Red bags are ONLY for Medical Waste, and can only be used in properly certified autoclaves. Use the clear/white bags for Biohazardous Waste.

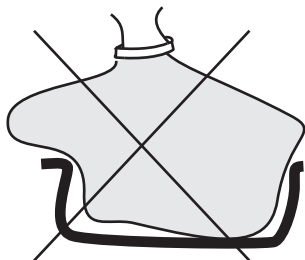


## Correct usage

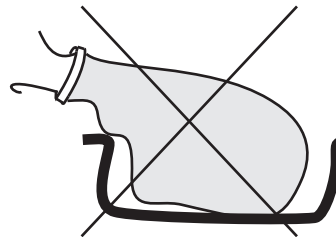


Looking down at top of waste bag. The opening is at least 1 inch. Check this and be sure!

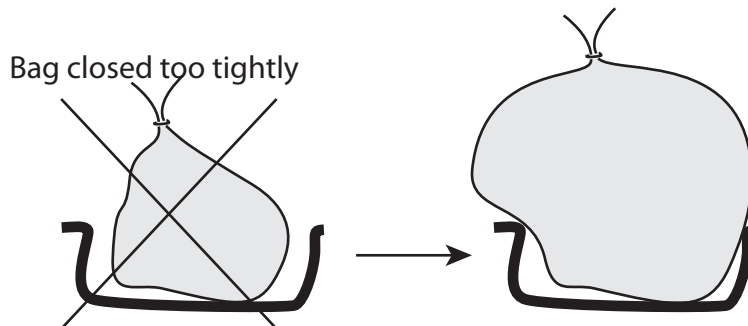
Bag too large or overfilled for size of containment pan



Bag not positioned properly, waste can drip outside of containment pan



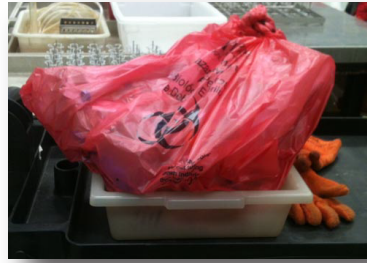
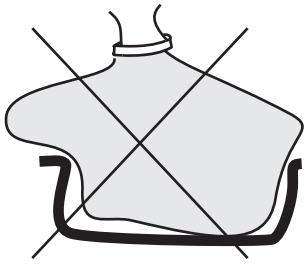
Bag closed too tightly



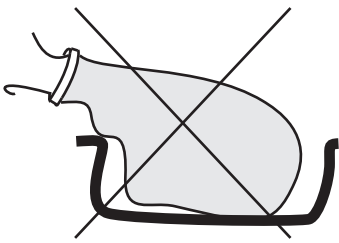
Steam doesn't penetrate; air in bag heats and expands, bag inflates, possibly explodes or touches wall of autoclave and melts

## Wrong usage that leads to spills and autoclave damage

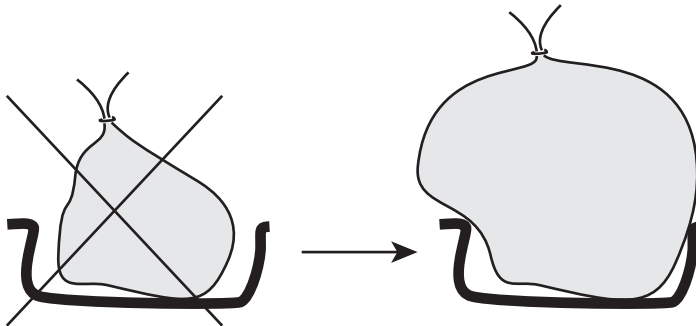
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Steam doesn't penetrate; air in bag heats and expands, bag inflates, possibly explodes or touches wall of autoclave and melts



Bag closed too tightly



Every aspect of this is wrong:

- Overfilled bag
- Bag too large for container pan
- Bag tightly closed
- Bag touches wall of autoclave
- Large load put into too small an autoclave