

# How long do I autoclave?

Steris provides a table which can be used as a roadmap for your liquid autoclave runs.

- Guidelines are in terms of “time” vs. “volume per flask”.
- Suggested sterilization times are for “water-like” liquids in bottles or flasks. Media with additives may need to have shorter times so that it is not overcooked.
- Minimum sterilization time can increase due to overloading the autoclave or stacking flasks.
- Add water to your secondary containers to help transfer heat.

Refer to **Table 3-3** for recommended Liquid cycle parameters. The recommended times indicated in **Table 3-3** assume the use of vented bottles or Erlenmeyer flasks. The *minimum sterilization time* includes the time required to bring the solution up to the sterilization temperature plus the time required to achieve sterilization.

*NOTE: Use load probes and  $F_0$  option to optimize cycle times.*

**Table 3-3. Liquid Cycle Parameters - No Load Probes**

| Volume of Liquid in One Container (mL) | Minimum Recommended Sterilize Time* at 121°C (250°F) (minutes) |
|--|--|
| 75                                     | 25   |
| 250                                    | 30   |
| 500                                    | 40   |
| 1000                                   | 45   |
| 1500                                   | 50   |
| 2000                                   | 55   |
| >2000                                  | 55+10 min/L  |

\* Minimum sterilize times are based on obtaining a  $10^6$  Sterility Assurance Level (SAL) with standard test loads. Specific labs may require different sterilize times to achieve this level of sterility, or may require a different SAL.