

WHAT YOU NEED

Dixon's Autoclave ST1528

Operator's Manual

Sterilisation bags, autoclave indicator tape, autoclave glove(s)

1. Locate the instruction manual supplied and follow the installation procedure. Operation of the autoclave is described in the manual and it is important to read this carefully. An electronic copy for the Dixon's ST1528 manual can be found on the Kirkhouse Trust website, under 'Resources—Equipment Manuals'.
2. Make sure that the lid, nuts and bolts are secured in the correct manner as described in the Manual. Fill the chamber with water. Place the lid, rotate clockwise until it hits the stops and the drop bolts line up, tighten the wing nuts in opposite pairs to ensure an even pressure; tighten to finger tightness.
3. Do not pack the items to be sterilised too tightly; there must be enough room for steam to circulate freely around the items. Any lids, such as on bottles, need to be separate or very loosely placed on so pressure does not build inside the container.
4. The autoclave works like a pressure cooker. The air in the chamber is expelled as the water boils and steam fills the chamber. A clean jet of steam and not 'spluttery water droplets' should be visible through the air cock before it is closed off. This is important as it means all air has been expelled.
5. When the sterilisation period is complete, turn off the red switch and allow the autoclave to cool. Do not use the air-cock to release pressure. Allow the autoclave to cool to 85°C or less.
6. When the autoclave has cooled, open the air-cock (6 turns). Check the pressure gauge reads zero. It is important to unscrew the nuts in the following sequence: unscrew the 6 wing nuts in opposite pairs, one in each hand (2 full turns). This allows the lid to rise to a safe position, then unscrew them fully and swing down the drop bolts. Finally, unscrew the 2 collared wing nuts as a pair, one in each hand. Remove the lid.



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| A | Draw-off Cock | E | Thermometer |
| B | Aircock | F | Wing Nut (6) |
| C | Pressure Gauge | G | Drop Bolt (6) |
| D | Safety Valve | H | Switch |