



THINKING OF BUYING AN AUTOCLAVE?

Despite the popularity of autoclaves many would be users still find themselves scratching their heads trying to make sense of all the models, size options and components that are out there. Let this expert guide serve as a cheat sheet to getting everything you need in an autoclave and maximising your investment today.



LET'S TALK SPECIFICS

Ask yourself what it is you are looking for in an autoclave? Do you want super advanced fancy features, a unit with all the bells and whistles or are you looking for a standard autoclave that will reach all its parameters and do the job without breaking the bank. There are pros and cons for the above and you need to undertake your research so you can make a truly informed decision.



PLANNING AHEAD

The buying process starts long before you begin looking at actual autoclave models. You need to give thought to the location of the autoclave in your facility and exactly where it will be positioned. Like a new refrigerator at home, you need to know the dimensions of where the autoclave will be located. Be sure to measure the depth and width of the bench as this measurement is vital when your shopping commences.

Depending upon your industry Dental/Medical Clinic/ Beauty/Veterinary will determine the size of the autoclave you will require. All industries use differing size equipment and you need to be sure the chamber size will suit the size of the instruments to be sterilised.



AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS

If you are sterilising equipment in medical, surgical and allied health facilities and skin penetration establishments you will need to abide by the Australian/New Zealand Standard 4815:2006. Below is a brief outline and the link to SAI Global where the Standard can be purchased.

AS/NZS 4815:2006

Office-based health care facilities - Reprocessing of reusable medical and surgical instruments and equipment, and maintenance of the associated environment

Sets out procedures and process development which can be validated for the cleaning, disinfection and sterilization of reusable medical and surgical instruments and equipment, and maintenance of associated environments in office-based health care facilities not involved in complex patient procedures and processes. Suitable for medical, surgical and allied health facilities and skin penetration establishments. May also be suitable for application to the instruments and equipment used exclusively on animals in veterinary practice. Does not apply to day surgical or day procedures centres or items that may be contaminated with prions capable of causing TSEs, e.g. Creutzfeldt-Jakob.





MATCHING YOUR LOAD TYPES TO CLASS S OR B

Class B Sterilization: Class B autoclaves enable the sterilization of all wrapped and unwrapped instruments, no matter their type and complexity. The fractionated vacuum reduces the air in the sterilization chamber through repeated evacuation and steam injection. This process permits the sterilization not only of solid and porous instruments, but also complex hollow body instruments with narrow lumen such as surgical hand pieces and endoscopes.

A standardized helix test body can be used to check the successful sterilization, even of complex hollow instruments. Our Class B practice steam sterilizers use the same sophisticated technology as large hospital autoclaves in a CSSD.

Used by Dentist / Tattooist

Class S Sterilization: The Class S sterilization ensures the decontamination of single and double wrapped instruments, porous products and small parts, solid and simple hollow body instruments, such as hinged instruments (scissors, clamps). The user manual of your Class S steam sterilizer provides a comprehensive explanation about the proper and intended use.

Practices and clinics not using complex hollow body instruments are advised to choose a Class S steam sterilizer over a Class B steam sterilizer. The cost-efficient Class S autoclaves either use the method of gravity displacement or a simple fractionated pre-vacuum.

Used by Podiatrist / Medical Centre / Beautician



WATER WONDERS

Water can drastically impact an autoclave's lifespan and it is essential you only use distilled water.

WHAT ELSE WILL I NEED?

Once you've decided on the autoclave of your choice you're going to need the following consumables to complete your shopping:



Distilled water



Pouches



Helix Test Kit



Label gun



Bowie Dick Test Packs



Class 5 or 6 Process Indicators

