

## EQUIPMENT

# Autoclave Preventative Maintenance

### *Preventive Maintenance*

- After each use: Clean the inside of the autoclave and around valve and vents
  - Empty all water from chamber and thoroughly dry
  - Wipe off metal-to-metal seal with clean towel to remove build-up
- Make sure valves are not clogged
  - Periodically clean control valve with hot, soapy water
- Check air exhaust tube by flushing water through it to make sure it is not blocked.
- Descale the chamber: most effective to use detergent meant for lime scale removal. Vinegar diluted with distilled water can also be used.
- Check for signs of wear and damage. Ensure sufficient seal around lid:
  - For a metal-to-metal seal, lubrication of the seal must be maintained
  - For a gasket seal, the seal must be pliable. If it is cracked or dry, then it should be replaced
- Valve safety check: Test the safety pop-off any time there is pressure built up in the sterilizer. Test the valve below the operating pressure with the use of a screwdriver to pop the pressure relief valve. Make sure your hand is away; otherwise the steam can cause burns.