

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO MEDICAL CENTER STERILE PROCESSING DEPARTMENT PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: LOADING OF STEAM STERILIZER CARTS

PROCEDURE NO: SP3-12

PROCEDURE STATEMENT

It is the policy of Sterile Processing to load the sterilizers in such a way as to present the least possible resistance to the passage of steam through the load.

PURPOSE OF PROCEDURE

To provide easy and efficient steam penetration for each item to be sterilized.

PROCEDURE

1. Always maintain visible space between all packaging. However, rigid sterilization trays may be stacked two high.
2. Place all individual instruments packed in peel pouches in racks provided. Items are placed on edge in the racks.
3. When sterilizing peel pouches, place side rails on carriage to insure that the peel pouches are not blown off during the cycle.
4. Place small instrument sets packaged in non-perforated trays on edge.
5. Place wrapped instrument sets packaged in perforated or mesh bottom trays flat to keep contents in order. Wrapped trays must be placed on shelves above rigid sterilization containers.
6. Place all rigid sterilization trays flat. They must be placed on shelves below wrapped trays as rigid containers may drip condensate.
7. Steamable plastic goods should not be stacked, nested or be touching any other article as they may become misshapen.
8. Place all jars and open mouth containers on their sides so condensation does not develop.
9. Liquids must never be combined with any other type of goods.

Reviewed/Revised
2006 2007 2010
1/2014