

## Optimice SOP - Sterilizing Optimice Components

 **Verify facility sterilizers are calibrated regularly. Animal Care Systems is not liable for damage done to cages or racks by uncalibrated facility equipment.**

### Cage Sterilization

1. Remove all the cages from the rack by grasping the thumb rest beneath the filter and pulling up and outward. Steady the cage with your other hand (Figure 1). Alternately, lift out using the bottom corners (Figure 2).

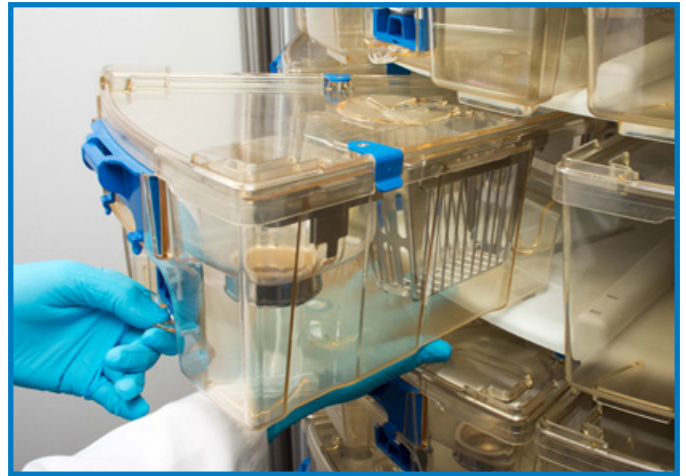


Figure 1



Figure 2

 **The cages must not be autoclaved while on the rack.**

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2. Use caution when stacking cage bases or assemblies for sterilization. Stacks that are too high will overload and warp the bottom cage(s). Limit stack heights to 5 cages for heat sterilization unless internal validation of higher stacks is conducted.

<b><u>Cage Sterilization Temperature Limit</u></b>		
	<b>Sterilization Temperature</b>	<b>Maximum Duration</b>
<b>Polycarbonate</b>	up to 250 F (121 C)	20 minutes
<b>Polysulfone*</b>	up to 300 F (148 C)	30 minutes

\*Steam autoclave typical at 275 F (131 C)



3. Use caution when stacking cage bases or assemblies for sterilization. Stacks that are too high will overload and warp the bottom cage(s). Limit stack heights to 5 cages for heat sterilization unless internal validation proves higher stacks.

### **Replace filter media every 70 sterilization cycles.**

During the wash-sterilization cycle, make sure that all the detergent is completely rinsed off every plastic surface before drying or heat sterilizing to extend the life of the plastic.



**If the filters are not completely dry, animals may receive inadequate airflow.**

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## Rack Sterilization

If the racks do not need to be sterilized upon entry into the facility, skip this section.

Optimice racks are compatible with steam, dry, and cold sterilization methods.

Contact Animal Care Systems for specific information about dry heat sterilization options and spray-on disinfectant compatibility.

1. Check rack top for shipping materials.
2. Remove all the cages from the rack.
3. Open the bottom drain door by pulling on the steel handle connected to the bottom platter, and rotate it upward until it seats behind the notch (Figure 3). **Keep column drain door closed except when washing or sterilizing.**



Figure 3

4. (For auto-water racks) Untwist by hand the bottom water drain valve (Figure 4).



Figure 4

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5. (If using walk-in chamber) Roll the rack into the sterilization chamber, and begin the cycle. **Do not use temperatures above 250 degrees Fahrenheit (121 C).**
6. (If using a steam sterilizer) Allow the rack to dry for at least 60 minutes following the cycle. Make sure to leave open the drain door while drying.
7. After the rack is dry, pull the bottom drain door handle outward, rotate it downward until it clears the notch, and release it (Figure 5).



Figure 5

### **Rack Sterilization Temperature Limit**

250 F (121 C)



**Temperatures above 250 F will damage the rack platter.**



**Heat-sterilizing the rack while the cages are still docked will damage the rack.**