

ANIMAL

CARE SYSTEMS^{Inc.}

Helping you achieve responsible animal care

OptiMICE[®] System Cages & Water Bottles

Cages and water bottles used in OptiMICE[®] System mouse racks are available in either Makrolon[®] Polycarbonate or one of two grades of Udel[®] Polysulfone.

Makrolon[®] polycarbonate water bottles and cage parts are autoclavable up to 250° F. (121° C.) This temperature is near the upper limit for polycarbonate, and should never be exceeded.

Udel[®] polysulfone water bottles and cage parts are autoclavable to a temperature of 270° F. (132° C.). This is not near the upper limit for polysulfone, and autoclaving at high temperatures is not normally an issue.

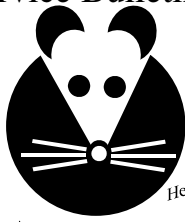
The procedures on page 2 should be followed when autoclaving any OptiMICE[®] System Makrolon[®] polycarbonate or Udel[®] polysulfone cages, cage parts, or water bottles.

Parts List of Autoclavable Plastic Components

Macrolon [®] Part Number	Udel [®] Part Number	Description
C79100M	C79100P, C79100S	OptiMICE Cage Assembly
C79110M	C79110P, C79100S	OptiMICE Cage Bottom Assembly
C43020M	C43020P, C43020S	OptiMICE Cage Top
C43010M	C43010P, C43010S	OptiMICE Cage Bottom
C79121M	C79121P, C79121S	OptiMICE bottle assembly
C79131M	C79131P, C79131S	OptiMICE bottle and seal
Other Autoclavable Plastics		Descriptions
C79071		Cage Filter Assembly

OptiMICE[®] Racks

All OptiMICE racks are completely autoclavable at up to 250° F. (121° C.) for up to 20 minutes. Only the exhaust hoses and quick-connect hose flanges at the top of the OptiMICE rack must be removed before autoclaving. The flanges are attached with thumb nuts for quick removal. Autoclave with the cages removed.

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General Autoclaving Procedures

- **Do not stack parts for autoclaving.** Generally, always arrange parts in the autoclave individually, with no parts stacked on others. When parts are heated, they lose strength and parts at the bottom of a stack can be permanently deformed.
- **Stacking Udel[®] Cages for Autoclaving.** If Udel[®] cages must be stacked to raise autoclave throughput, test a sample stack of cages at the maximum expected temperature prior to commencing normal operations. If the bottom cage in the stack is deformed after test autoclaving, stack height is too great.
- **Autoclave only clean parts.** The high temperatures will cause residual animal waste products or detergents to react with polycarbonate or polysulfone and shorten the part's lifespan or ruin the transparency.

Specific Macrolon[®] Autoclaving Restrictions

- **Do not exceed 250° F. for 20 minutes maximum.** Higher temperatures and/or durations will damage parts and/or shorten their life.

When the procedures listed above are followed, OptiMICE[®] System cages, cage parts, water bottles, and entire racks will provide long, trouble-free operation, and cages will retain their original clarity through many autoclave cycles.

Replacement

OptiMICE[®] System Macrolon[®] polycarbonate cages, cage parts, and water bottles are warranted for one year or 25 autoclave cycles when the correct autoclaving procedures are followed. Udel[®] polysulfone components are warranted for two years or 50 autoclave cycles. Parts that are properly cared for should remain serviceable for much longer than the warranty period. Animal Care Systems will replace at no charge any Macrolon[®] or Udel[®] parts that fail within the warranty period when maintained as described in this bulletin. Contact us if you have warranty questions or concerns.

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