

## Instructions for Field Sterilization

### **Using Presto 4-Quart Stainless Steel, #01341 Pressure Cooker**

A ring weight, available only from the CDS, increases the pressure from 16 psi to 24 psi for 10-minute sterilization.

A heat source is used: an electric hot plate, propane/gas stove, or whatever the locals heat water on. Other items needed include: two wash basins, dish soap, instrument brushes, oven mitts, instrument tongs, tea strainer to hold burs, and a timer. The black safety plug pops out at 30 psi, which gives the pot a built-in safety feature.

1. All blood and debris are removed from the instruments using brushes in a tub of soapy water. They are rinsed in a tub of clean water before being placed in the pot.
2. A cup of water is added to the pressure pot. The water level should just cover the cooker rack, which is placed at the bottom of the pot as a guide for the water level.
3. The lid is secured onto the pot as the handles click together to properly seal the lid. The pressure regulator with the added ring weight is placed on top of the lid. The pressure cooker is placed on the heat source to begin the autoclave process.
4. Once steam starts venting around the pressure regulator causing it to rock gently, the timer is set for 10 minutes to autoclave the instruments at 24 pounds of pressure with the ring weight. Maintain heat so the pressure regulator gently chugs during the cycle.
5. After the 10-minute cycle with the ring weight, the pressure pot is removed from the heat source, and the steam is vented by removing the pressure regulator/weight.
6. Once the pressure is released, the lid is opened and removed. Tongs can be used to remove the hot instruments. An alternate, quicker method uses the lid to hold the instruments in the pot, so the water can be drained and the instruments dumped on a clean towel or on a tray to cool.

