

# SONIC TATTOO

## Spore Testing & Sterilization

The following is the simplest way to describe what spore testing is for tattoo studios. All tattoo studios must challenge their autoclave bi-weekly according to current local Health Board and Provincial standards. This is achieved by taking a spore sample and placing it in an autoclave pouch that is run through a standard 30 minute autoclave cycle. After the cycle is over you would then send it to a laboratory of your choice, once received by the laboratory they would then begin to incubate the sample for any growth. If no growth was observed then your autoclave passed but if growth was observed then your autoclave failed.

Sonic Tattoo is fully insured and Health Board inspected. All of our autoclaves are spore tested on a bi-weekly basis by an independent laboratory as per Health Board and Provincial regulations. Sonic Tattoo uses the 3M Attest Biological Monitoring System. We use Germiphene Corporation as an independent laboratory who is the corporation that owns and operates the B-SAFE Biological Spore Test Analysis for Efficacy.

Sonic Tattoo challenges all critical variables of our autoclave on a daily basis even though this is not expected of us from Health Canada and the Niagara Region Public Health Board. Aside from the mandated bi-weekly testing, we spore test and incubate our autoclave once a week in house. We use liquid biological monitors because the sample is contained in a glass ampoule and they have a 100% effectiveness rate. Unfortunately not too many spore testing facilities use the liquid biological monitors anymore. This means that we and most other studios are forced to use the blue or white paper biological strips which are subjected to environmental conditions and have a much lower effectiveness rate.

These blue or white paper strips will produce the occasional false positive so it is important to use a company such as Germiphene Corporation which supplies 2 strips with every spore test to ensure that this doesn't happen often. We also use 3M Comply SteriGage steam and EO chemical integrators with each sterilization cycle. These integrators are designed to react to all critical variables such as the proper amount of time, the correct temperature and pressure was achieved during the sterilization cycle.

Chemical integrators are the only closest way to monitor if your autoclave is working properly next to a spore test. The chemical integrators we use have an effectiveness rate of approximately 99%. This allows us to monitor every load for any mechanical anomalies or cycle failures. All other studios that don't follow this same method that we use could be using a nonfunctioning autoclave for up to 3 to 5 days. That time frame is unacceptable to Sonic Tattoo and we will always endeavor to improve our processes in every area of our industry.