

Midmark M9/M11 Tabletop Sterilizers: Repair and PM

2022 MD Expo SoCal



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Temperature, Pressure & Time

From the most simple manual tabletop autoclave to the largest automated bulk sterilizer, there are the 3 parameters necessary to produce sterilization.

1. Temperature

Controlled manually or electrically the preset sterilization temperature must be maintained during the entire sterilization section of the cycle. The temperature control can be verified using a max registering lag thermometer.

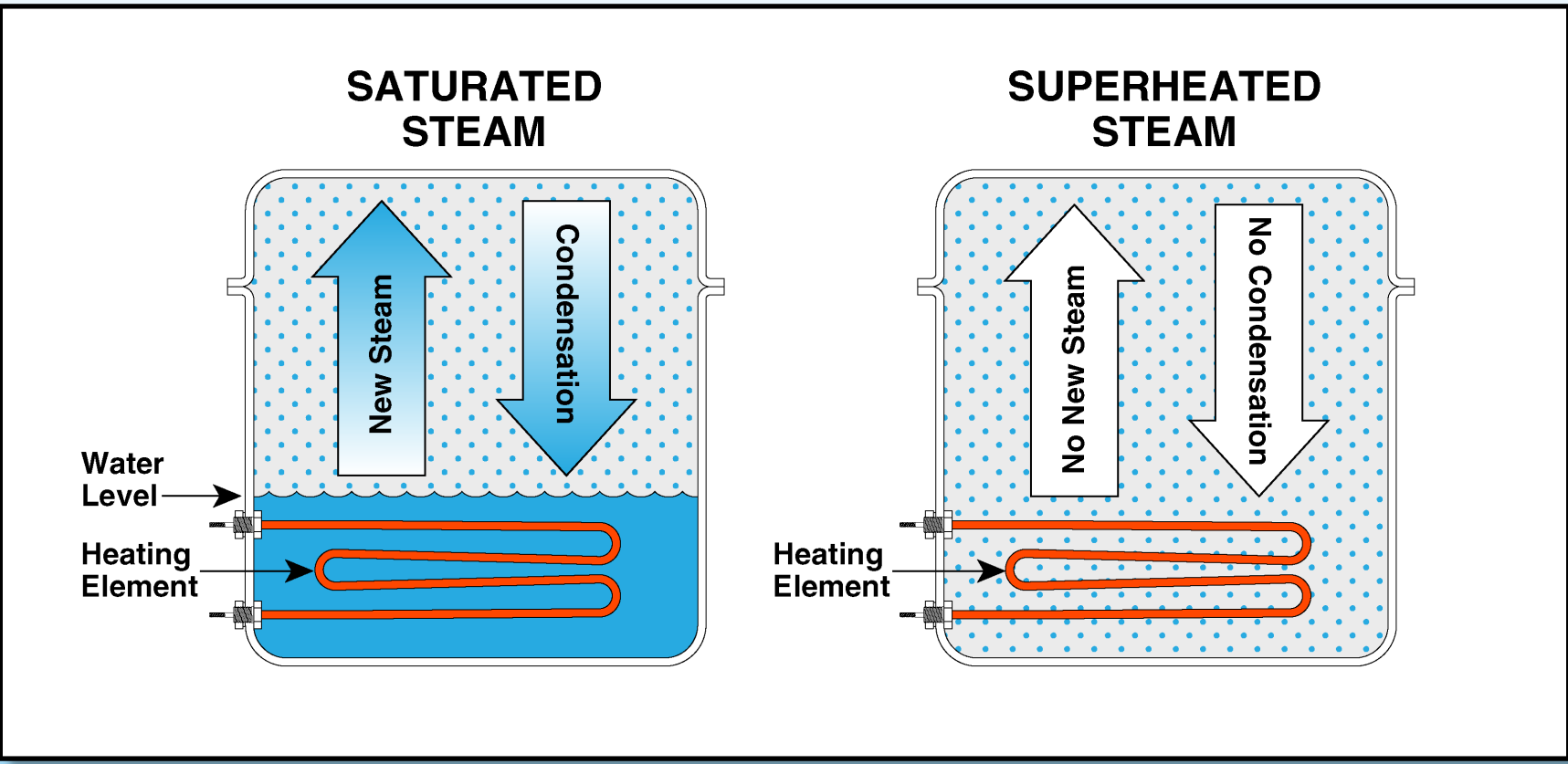
2. Pressure

An indicator for the functional quality of the sterilizer, proper pressure can only be produced in a leak-tight machine that has enough water in the chamber to produce saturated steam throughout the entire length of the cycle.

3. Time

The exposure time recommended by the sterilizer manufacturer is designed to produce a 100% kill rate for all types of spore forming bacterium. The exposure time should start once the sterilizer has reached a stable operating temperature and pressure.

Saturated vs. Superheated Steam Graphic



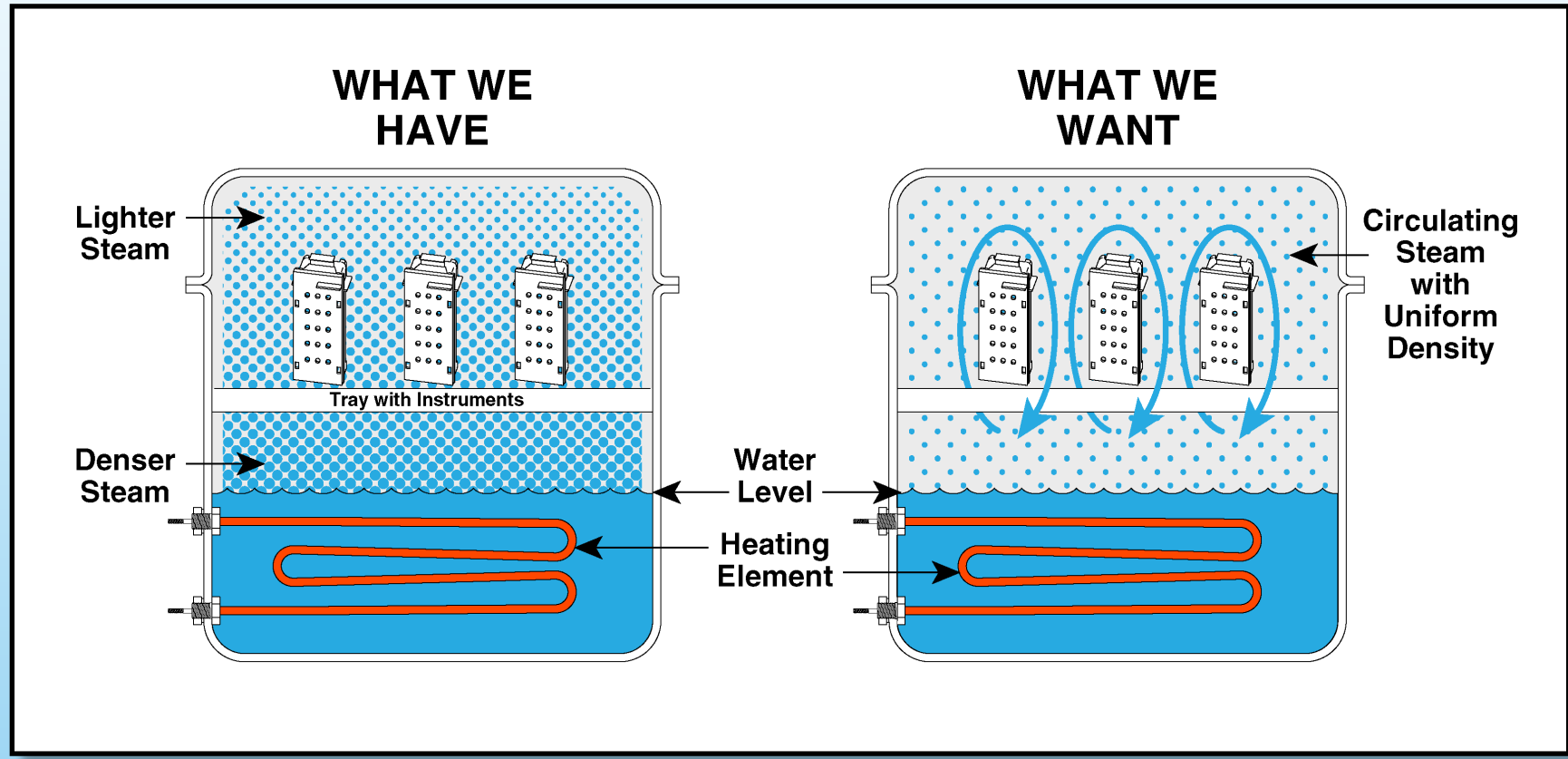


Pressure / Temperature Chart

PSI	°C	°F	PSI	°C	°F
0	100.0	212.0	16	122.0	251.6
1	101.9	215.4	17	123.0	253.4
2	103.6	218.5	18	124.1	255.4
3	105.3	221.5	19	125.0	257.0
4	106.9	224.4	20	126.0	258.8
5	108.4	227.1	21	126.9	260.4
6	109.8	229.6	22	127.8	262.0
7	111.3	232.3	23	128.7	263.7
8	112.6	234.7	24	129.6	265.3
9	113.9	237.0	25	130.4	266.7
10	115.2	239.4	26	131.3	268.3
11	116.4	241.5	27	132.1	269.8
12	117.6	243.7	28	132.9	271.2
13	118.8	245.8	29	133.7	272.7
14	119.9	247.8	30	134.5	274.1
15	121.0	249.8			

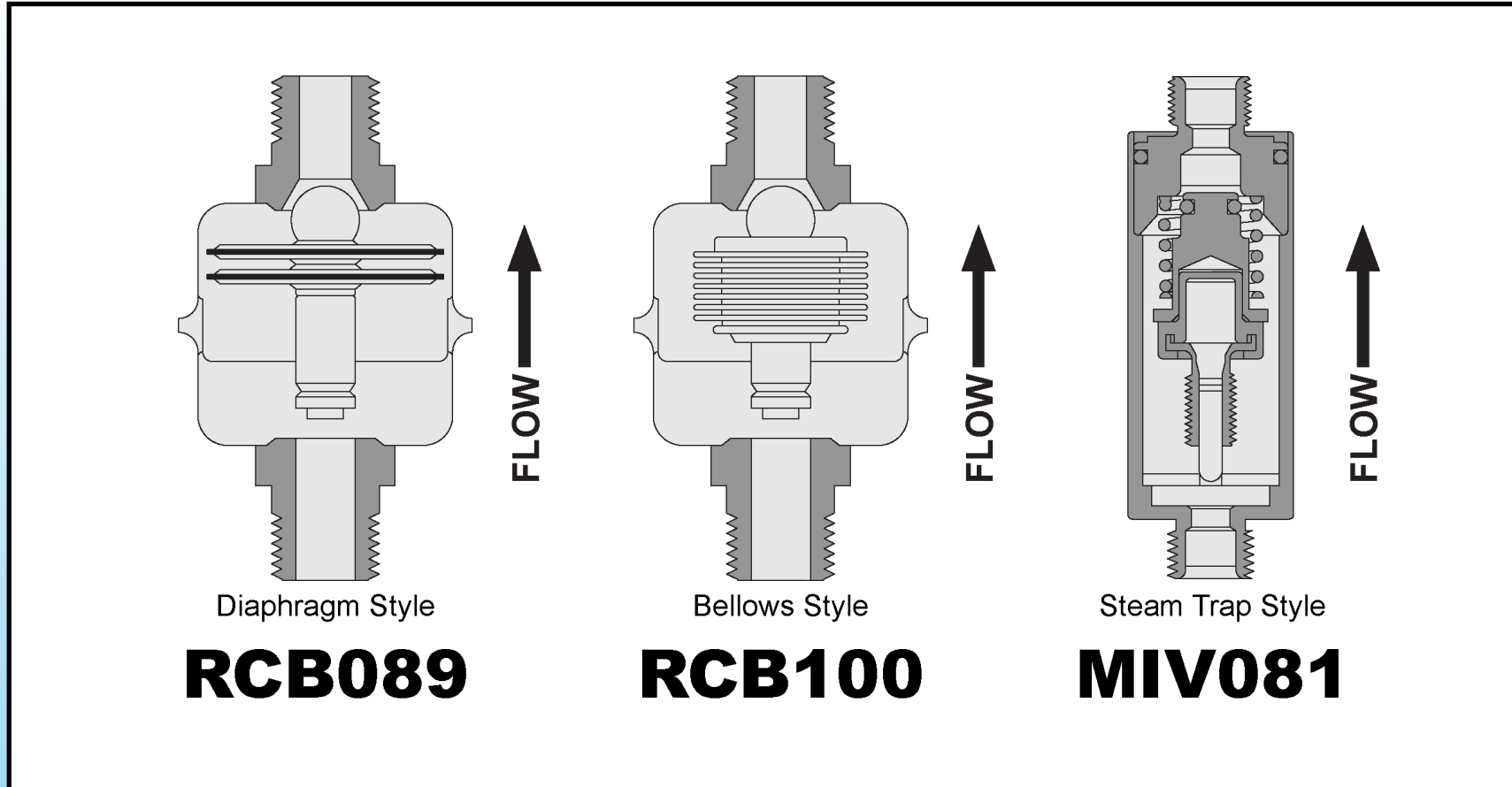
*Chart indicates steam pressure only.
250°F to 270°F is the normal steam sterilizing range.
Note: Air in the sterilizer negates temperature readings.*

Steam Stratification



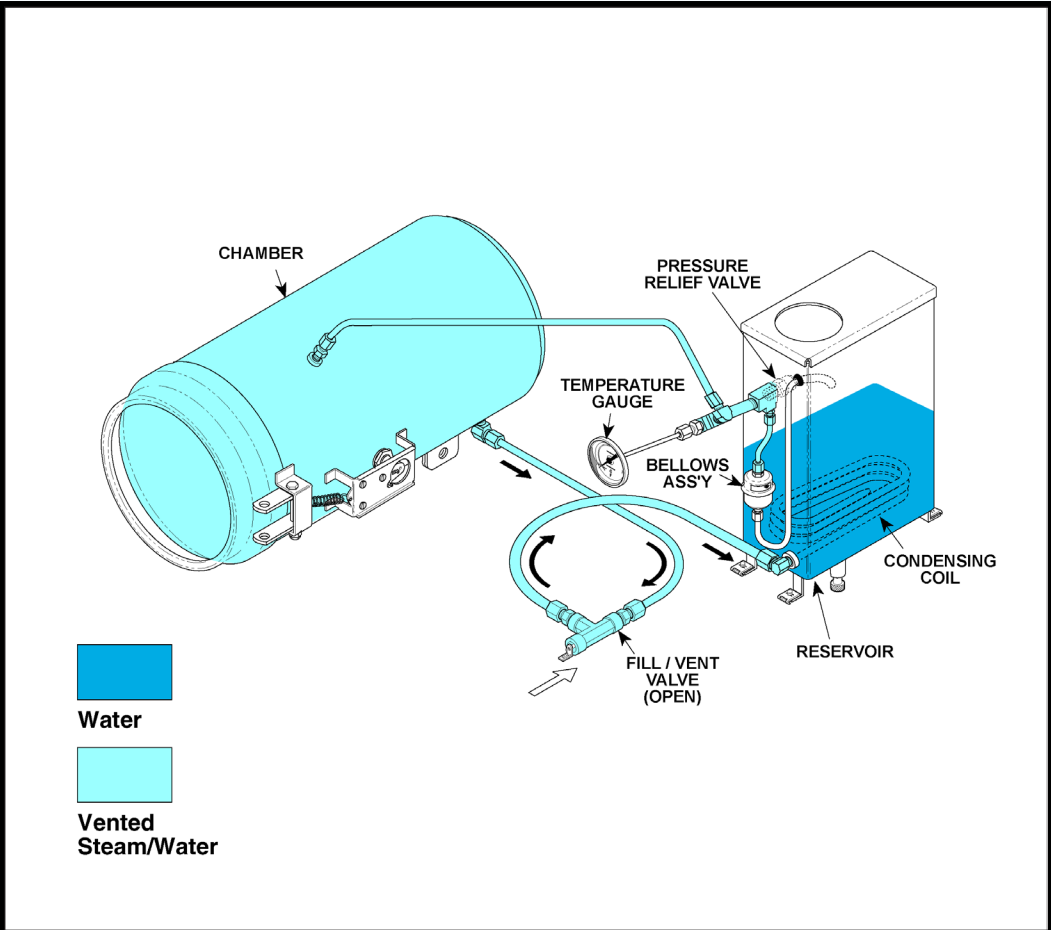


Different Styles of Mechanical Bellows



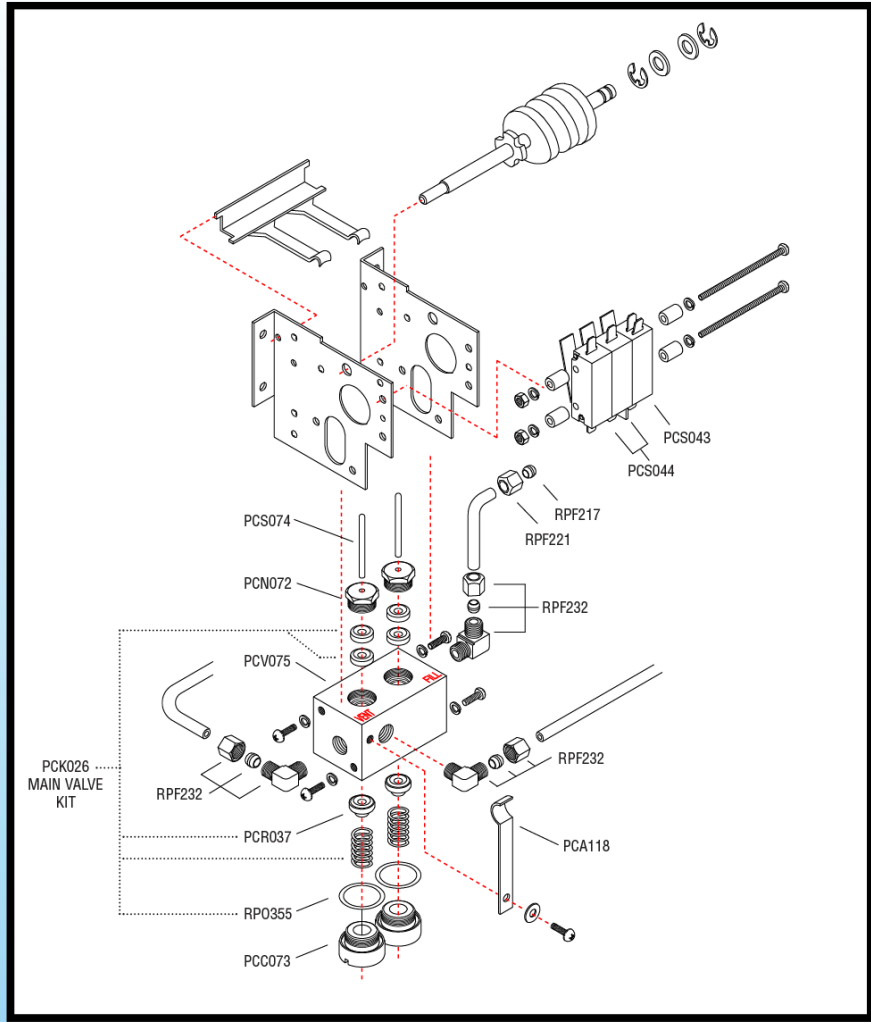
Understanding the function of a bellows or steam trap is important to diagnosing sterilizer problems – a functional bellows will release a large amount of air and condensed water during startup and should seal to the point where water is released 2-3 drops every few seconds.

Example of a Manual Sterilizer Valve System



Source: Midmark Service and Parts Manual Part No. 003-0721-00 Rev. O (6/20/06)

Example of a Manual Sterilizer Valve System



Source: Your Guide to Maintaining the Pelton & Crane OCM, OCR, & OCR+ Sterilizer, 05/07 © Replacement Parts Industries, Inc.

Tabletop Sterilizers: Automatic vs. Manual (Similarities)

The newer automatic type sterilizers basically work on the same principle as the older manual machines. The following are some of the similarities between the two types.

Sterilization Cycles Sterilization cycles are between 250° F (121° C) and 275° F (134° C).

Water to Steam to Water Water is stored in a reservoir and a condensation coil takes steam after each cycle and condenses it back into water.

Use of a Triac Both types of sterilizers utilize a triac to supply the high current to the heaters.

Use of Solenoid Valves A mechanical or electrical (solenoid valve) air bellows is used to maintain the saturated steam inside the chamber.

Output Devices Output devices such as gauges (manual) or LED displays (automatic) are used to display temperature and pressure.

Timers Mechanical timers (manual) or programmable timers (automatic) are used to monitor the length of the sterilization cycle.

Safety Devices Safety devices for pressure (safety relief valves) and temperature (bi-metallic or snap action switches) are utilized.

Door Gaskets Door gaskets are used to seal the chamber of the sterilizer.

Valves Mechanical valves (manual) or solenoid valves (automatic) are used to fill the chamber of the sterilizer.

Filters Filters are used to filter the water to the chamber from the reservoir and from the chamber back into the reservoir.

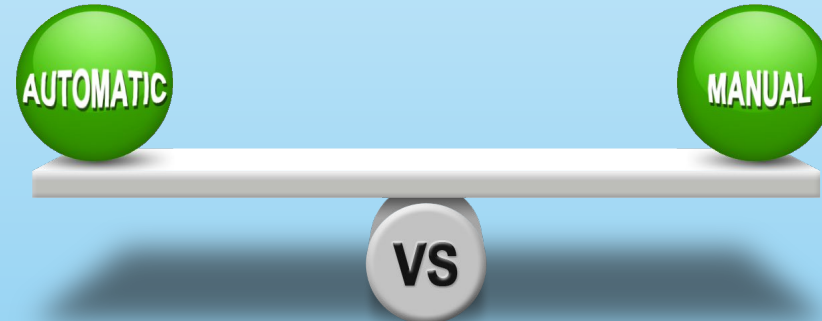
Tabletop Sterilizers: Automatic vs. Manual (Differences)

Features of an automatic sterilizer not found on a manual sterilizer

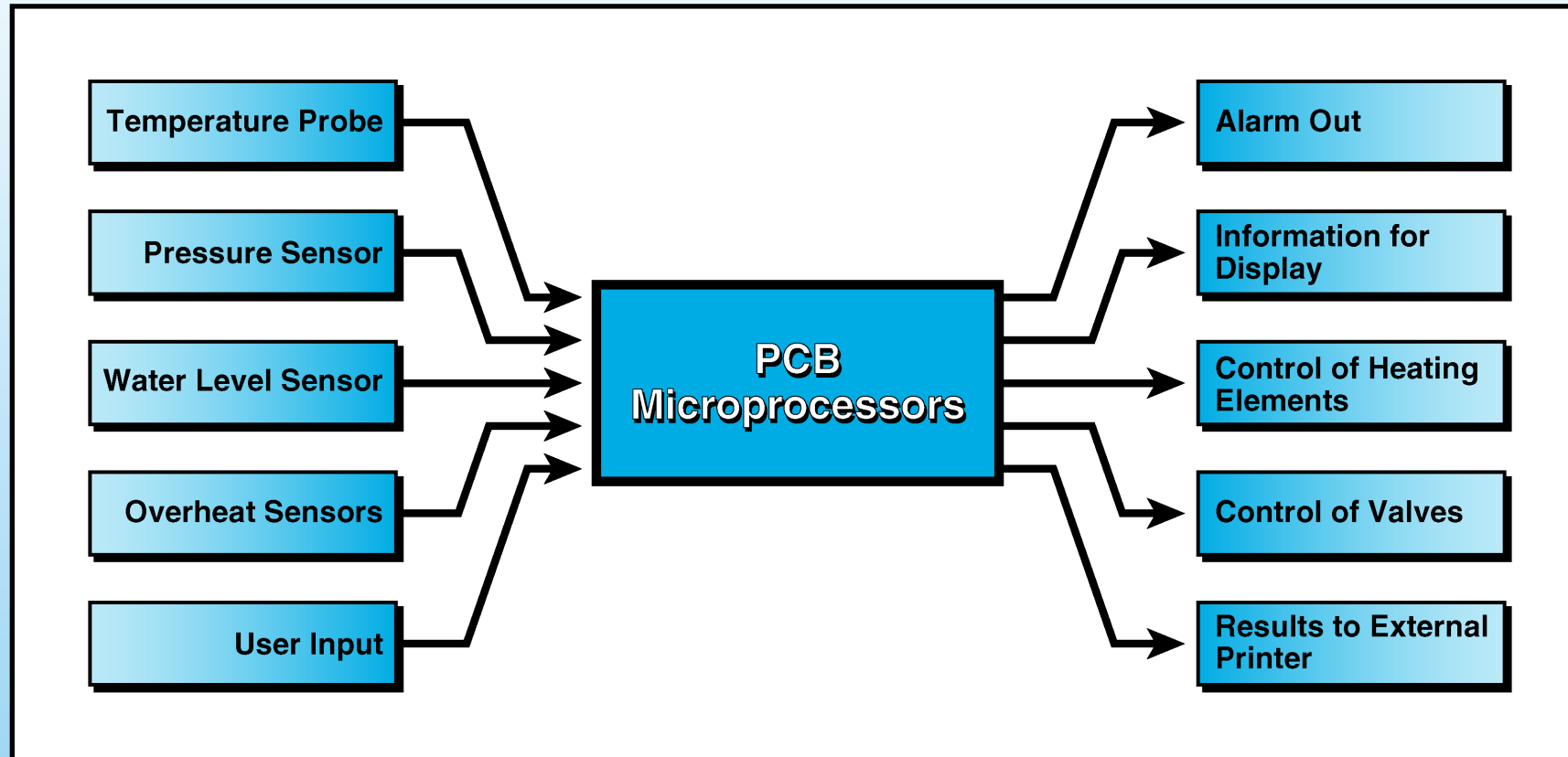
- Self-diagnostic software.
- Display codes to assist you with trouble-shooting the unit when it will not operate properly.
- Heater circuit is microprocessor controlled and automatically changes from FILL to STERILIZE to DRYING cycle and powers down at the end of the drying cycle.
- Timing circuits that actuate solenoid valves to allow a premeasured volume of water for each cycle, thus eliminating operator errors in filling the chamber.
- Additional electronic surface temperature monitoring to prevent damage to the chamber because of low water conditions.

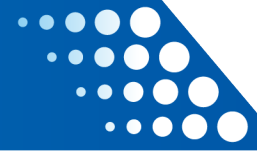
Other features of some automatic sterilizers not found on manual sterilizers

- Dams or water guards that prevent condensate from dripping on counter tops.
- Additional solenoid valve ports to expedite the venting of the sterilizer.
- Automatic door release feature (pulse solenoid latch) to prevent wet packs from occurring because the door was not cracked open.

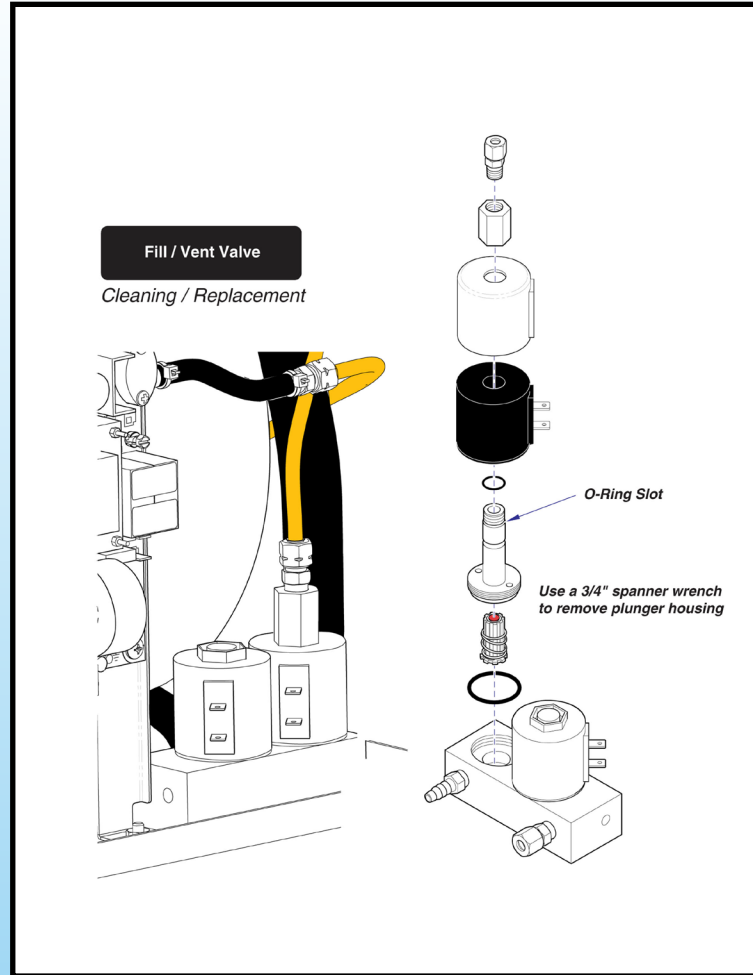


Sterilization Input and Output via the PCB Microprocessors





Example of an Automatic Sterilizer Valve System



Distinguishing Old vs. New Style M9 & M11



**Front Panel
Older Style M9 & M11**

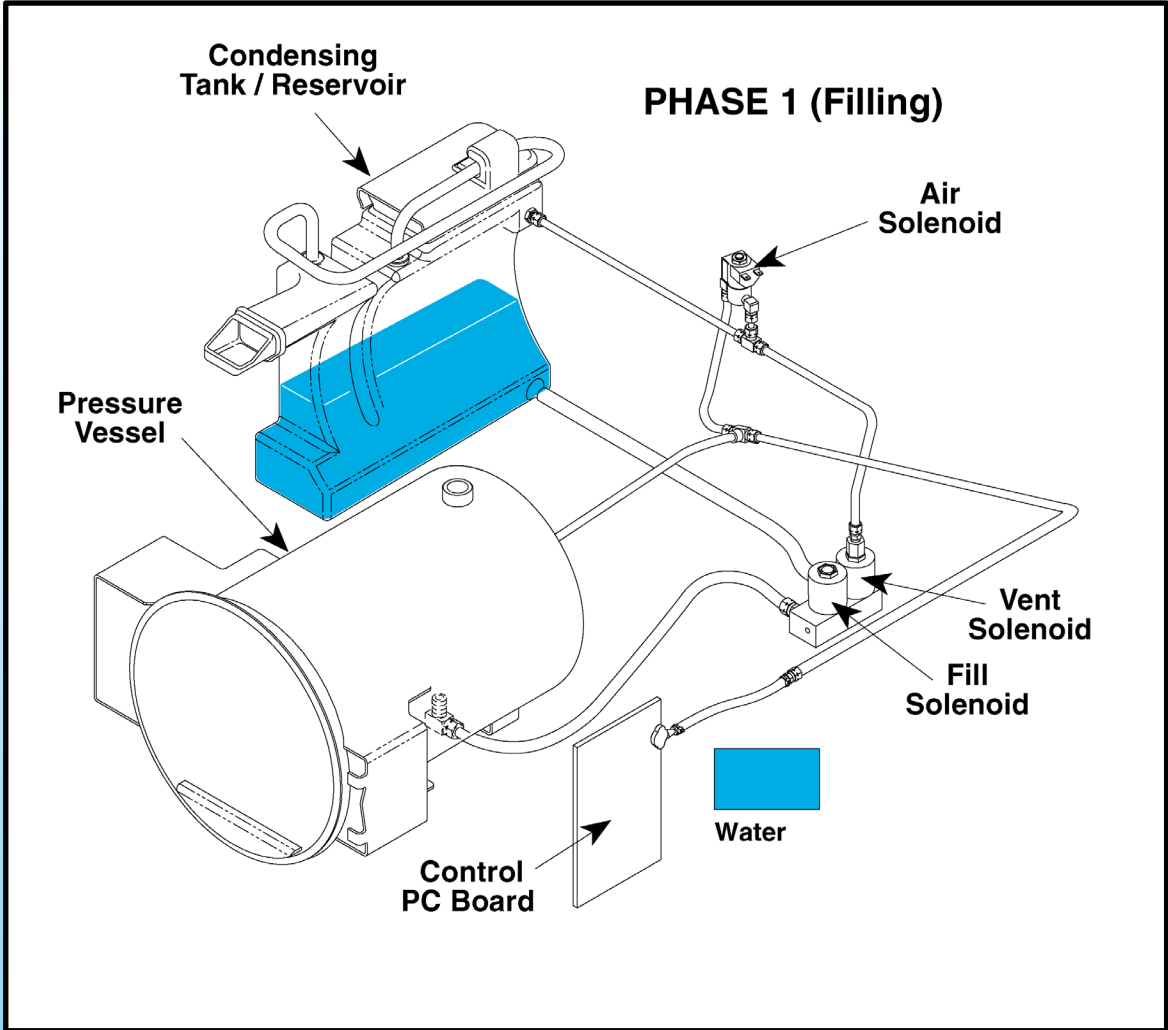
**Red
LED Display**



**Front Panel
Newer Style M9 & M11**

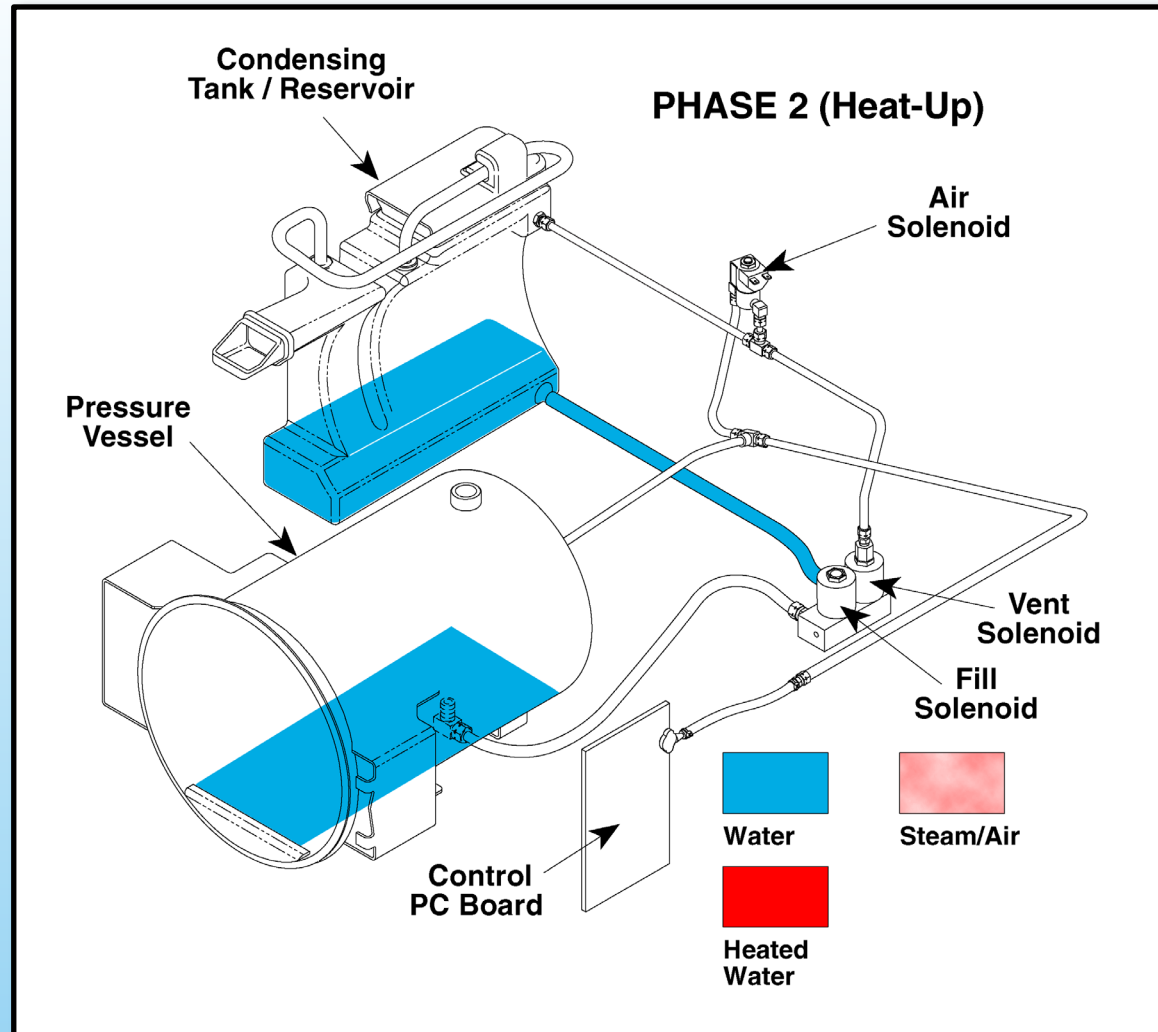
**Green
LCD Display**

Sterilizer – Phase 1 (Filling)

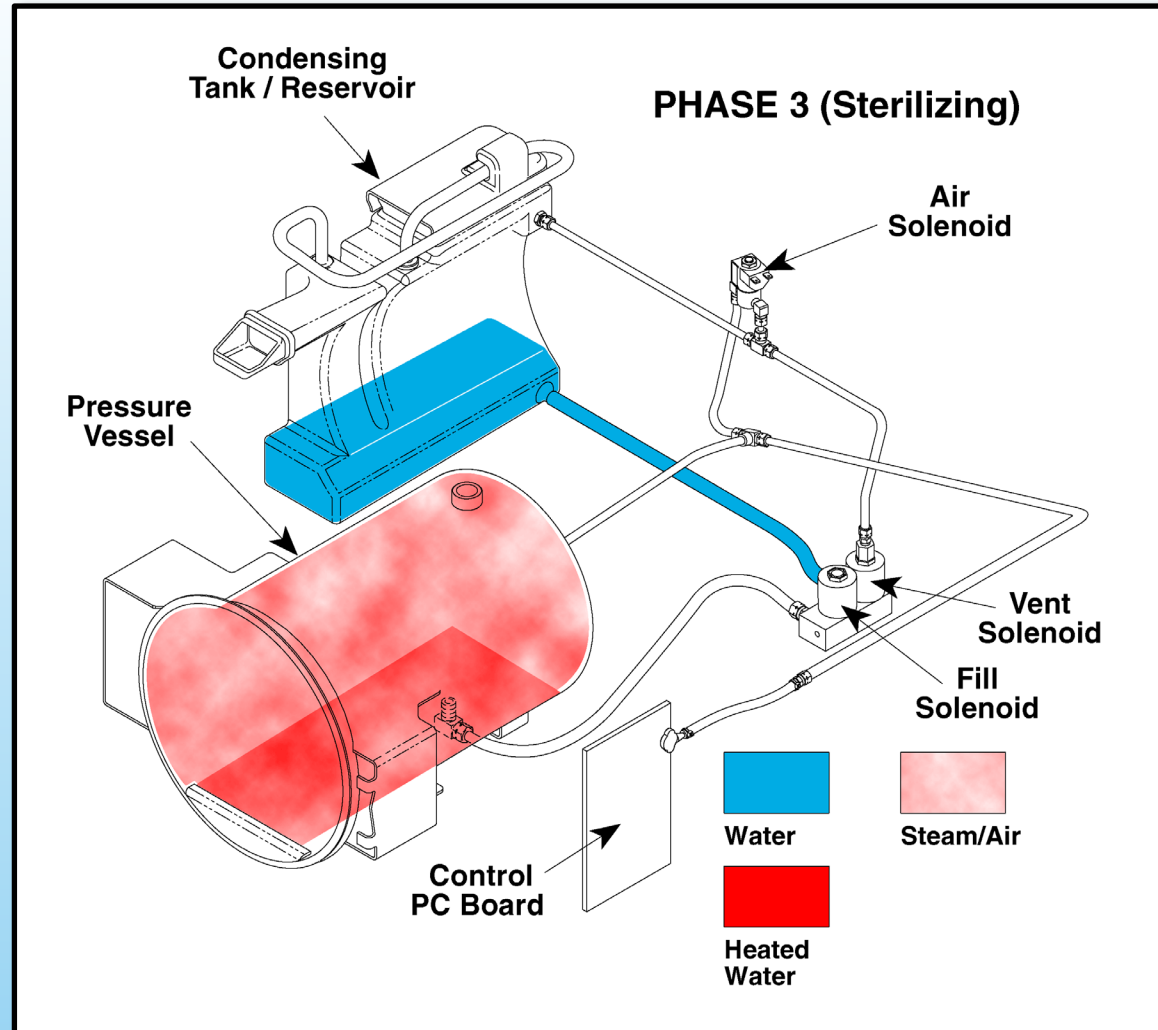


Source: Midmark Service and Parts Manual Part No. 004-0453-00 Rev. E (2/17/10)

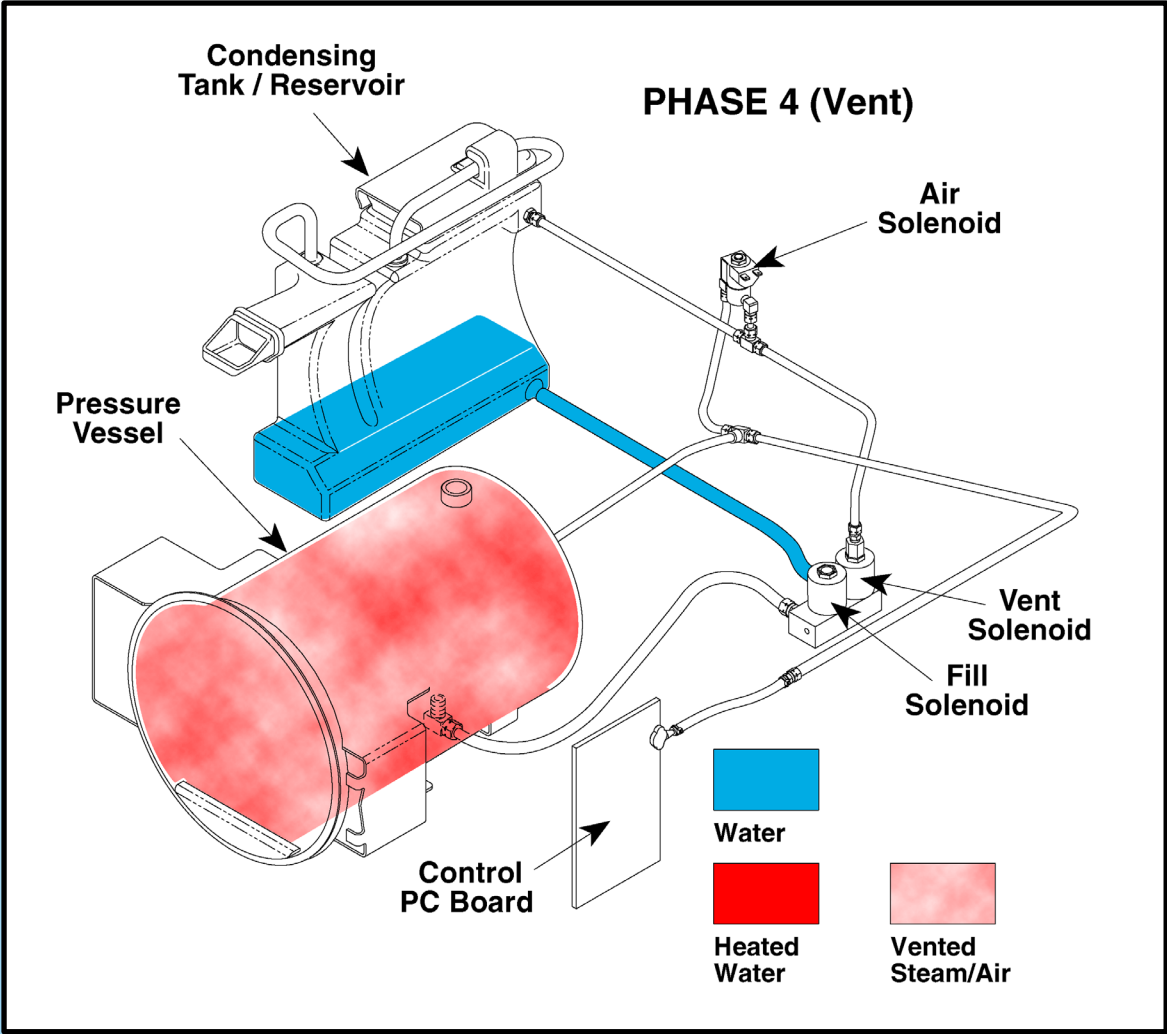
Sterilizer – Phase 2 (Heat-Up)



Sterilizer – Phase 3 (Sterilizing)



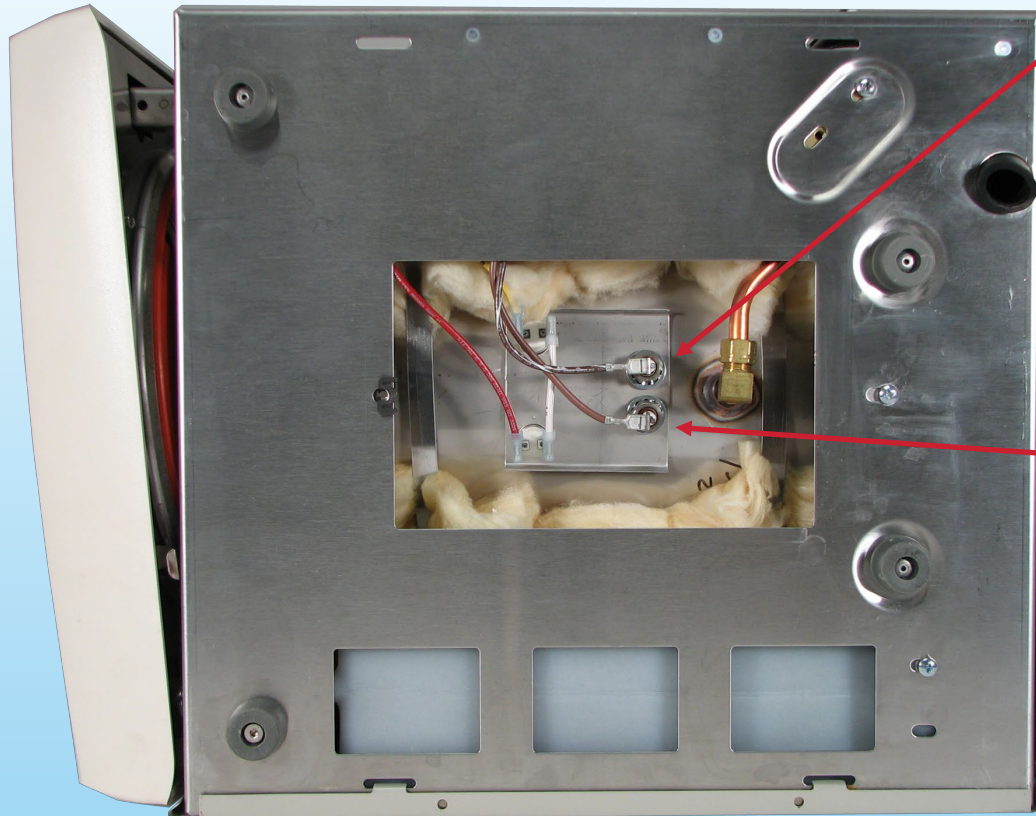
Sterilizer – Phase 4 (Vent)



Source: Midmark Service and Parts Manual Part No. 004-0453-00 Rev. E (2/17/10)

Tech Tips: Midmark M9 Bottom Panel

Heating Element Connections and Installation



Tech Tip #1

When working under the machine be sure to check the heating element connections for oxidation and clean or repair as needed – oxidation on these connections can cause the element to produce additional unwanted heat which can lead to false failures of the over temperature switches as well as the failure of the connectors and wire jacketing.

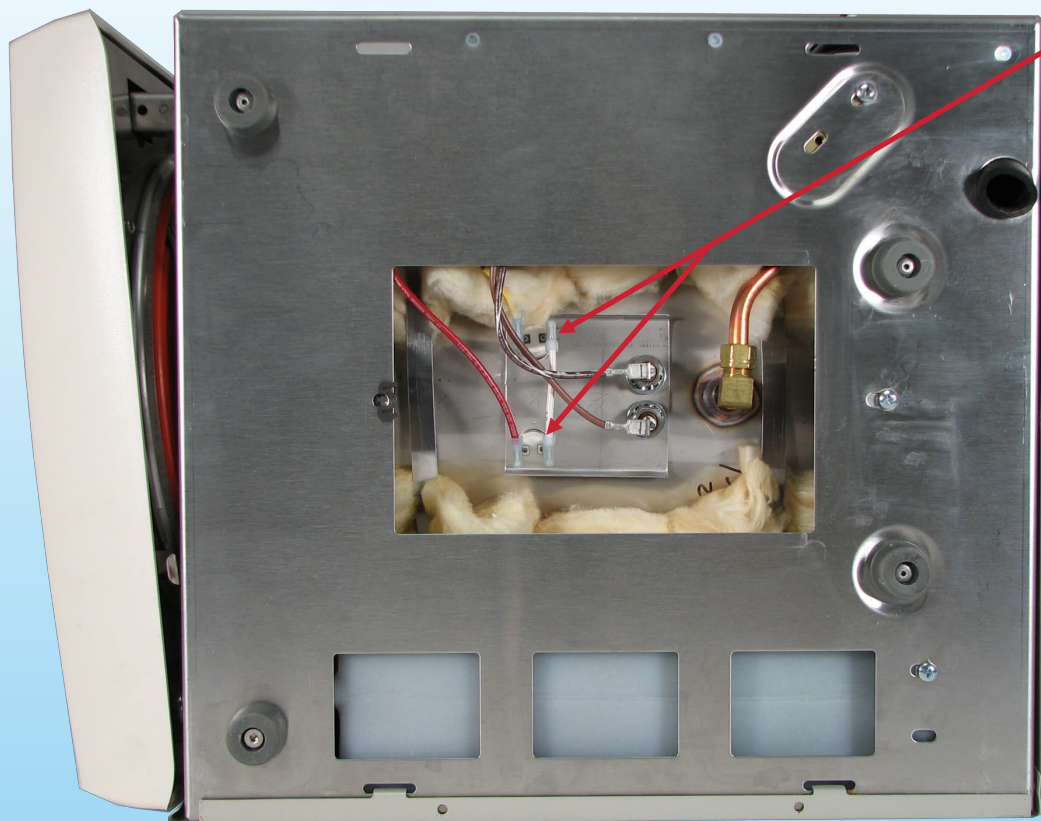
Tech Tip #2

When replacing the heating element the order of the hardware is important – the fiber washer is always installed inside the chamber, the metal plate and the over temperature switches are installed next (on the outside), then the flat washer, lock washer and nut are installed last – there should be nothing installed between the chamber and the metal plate.



Tech Tips: Midmark M9 Bottom Panel

Over Temperature Switches



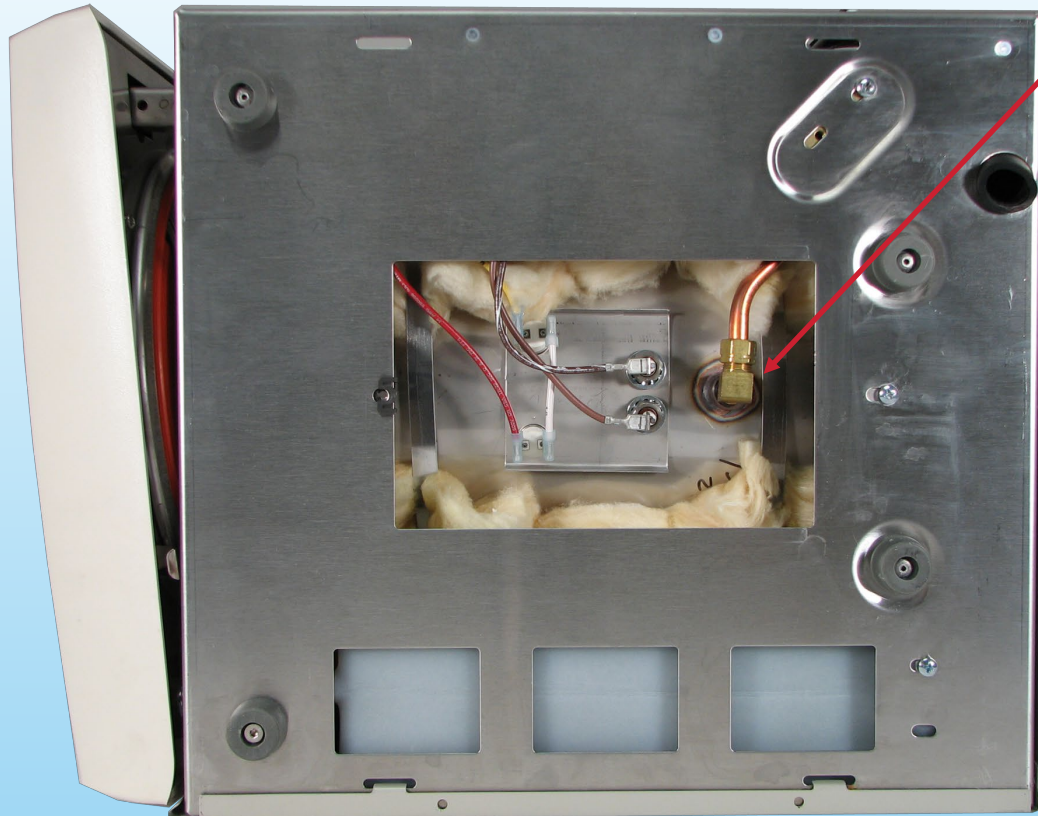
Tech Tip #3

These devices are automatically resettable thermal switches and can be trouble shot by measuring their resistance when cold – low resistance measurement means a functioning part while high or infinite resistance indicates a failed switch.



Tech Tips: Midmark M9 Bottom Panel

Chamber Fitting

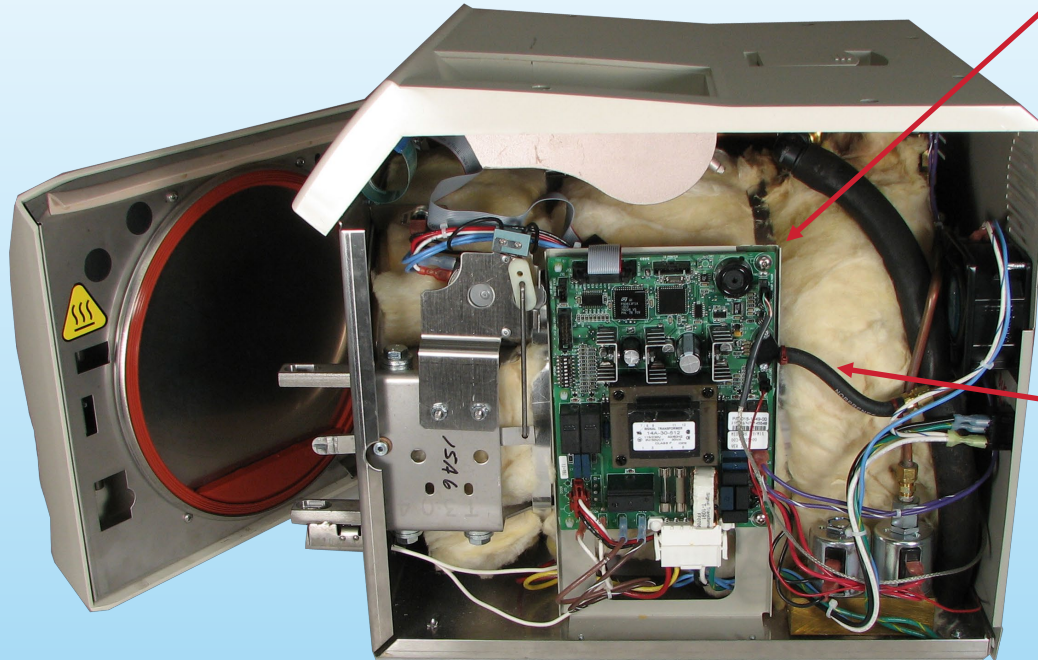


Tech Tip #4

When working on the underside of the machine, check this fitting for corrosion. Rusting around this fitting could indicate the beginnings of a chamber failure – sterilizer chambers can not be repaired or re-welded - they must be replaced to maintain ASME certification.

Tech Tips: Midmark M9 Side Panel

Main Circuit Board



Tech Tip #1

Verify all temperature and pressure readings during the service and calibration procedures with an independent gauge, thermocouple or lag thermometer. On the Midmark M9, an exterior gauge can be connected between the chamber and the pressure sensor at the main circuit board. When making these measurements, it is important to always use tie wraps at all connections.

Tech Tip #2

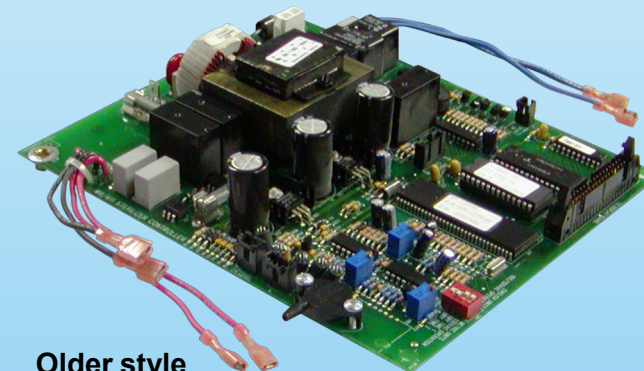
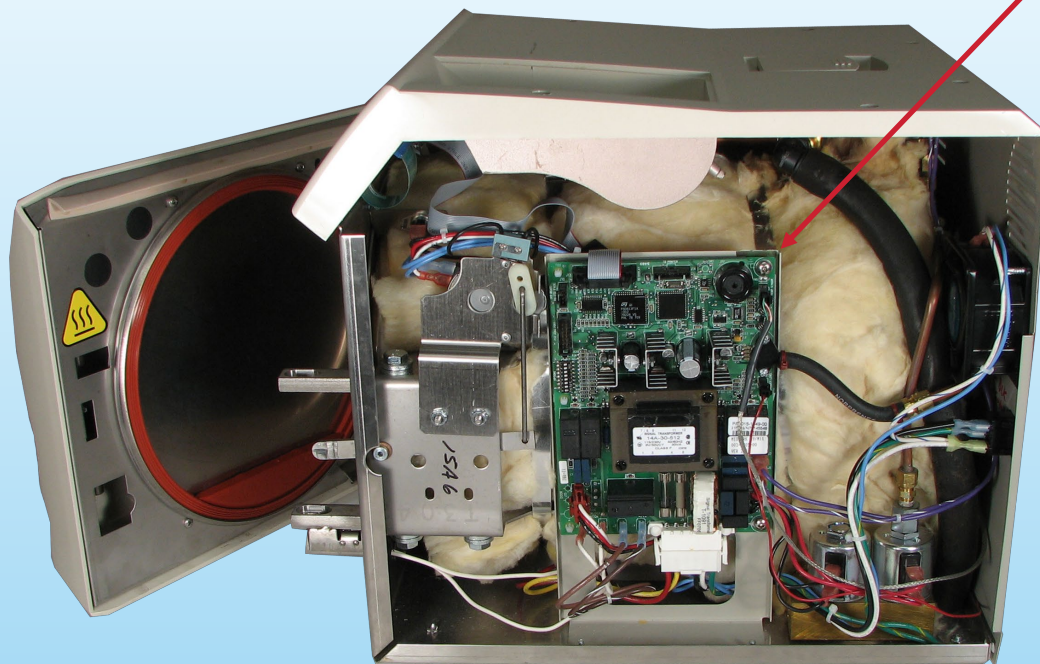
When reinstalling the rubber hose running from the chamber to the pressure transducer be sure to use new high temperature tie wrap and be sure there are no leaks at either end of the hose – a small leak at this point can make the board impossible to properly calibrate.

Tech Tips: Midmark M9 Side Panel

Main Circuit Board

Tech Tip #3

Before replacing the main circuit board on the older style M9/M11 remove the main circuit board mounting bracket and check for rust between the bracket and the case of the machine – rust at this point can interfere with the ground path leading to the board. When reinstalling the main circuit board be sure to install all mounting hardware including any stainless steel screws – these screws form the ground path to the board and without them installed, the board can produce filling as well as calibration errors.



Older style Main Circuit Board

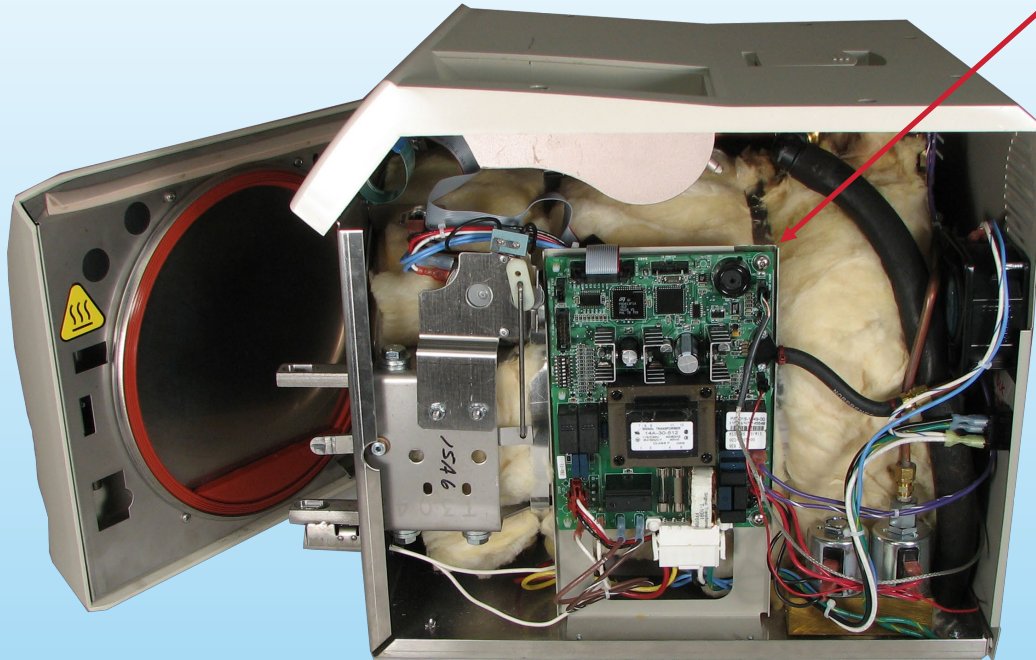
Check all board connections for oxidation – many of these wires carry large amounts of current and can fail to the point that the board will be damaged.

Tech Tips: Midmark M9 Side Panel

Main Circuit Board

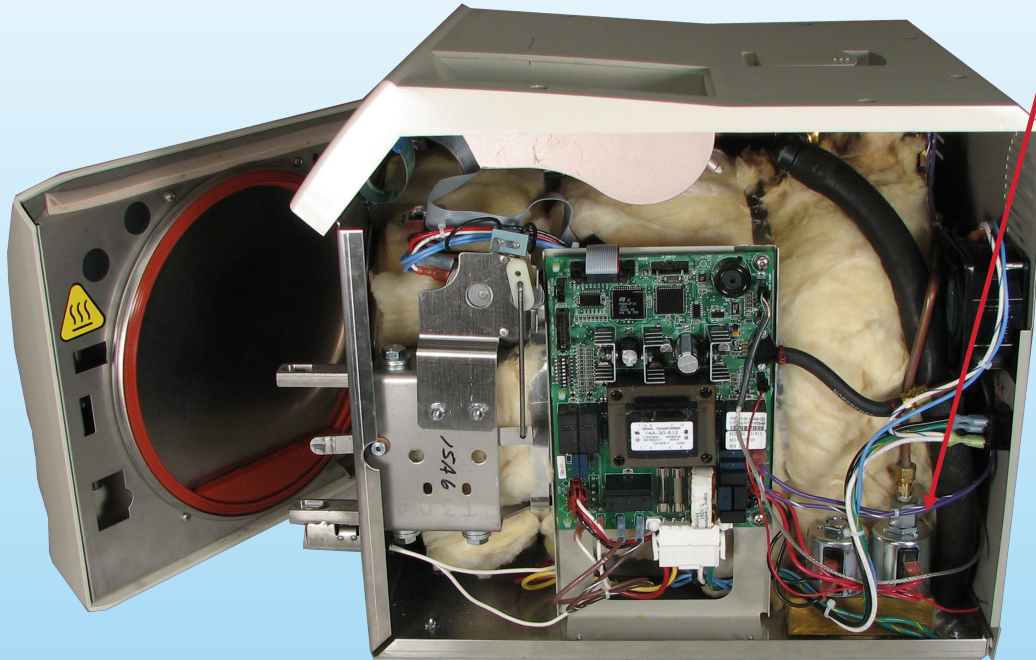
Tech Tip #4

Blown fuses on this circuit board often indicate problems with components external to the board. Before installing a replacement board, check the heating element, the valve coils and the door motor or pulse solenoid for internal shorts or shorts to ground.



Tech Tips: Midmark M9 Side Panel

Valve Assembly



Tech Tip #5

Failure of the fill valve can lead to water entering the chamber when the sterilizer is idle. Failure of the vent valve can lead to pressure or over temperature problems.

Tech Tip #6

When working on the solenoid valves never use a pair of pliers to open the valve body. A spanner wrench of the correct size will avoid crushing the valve bonnet.

Tech Tip #7

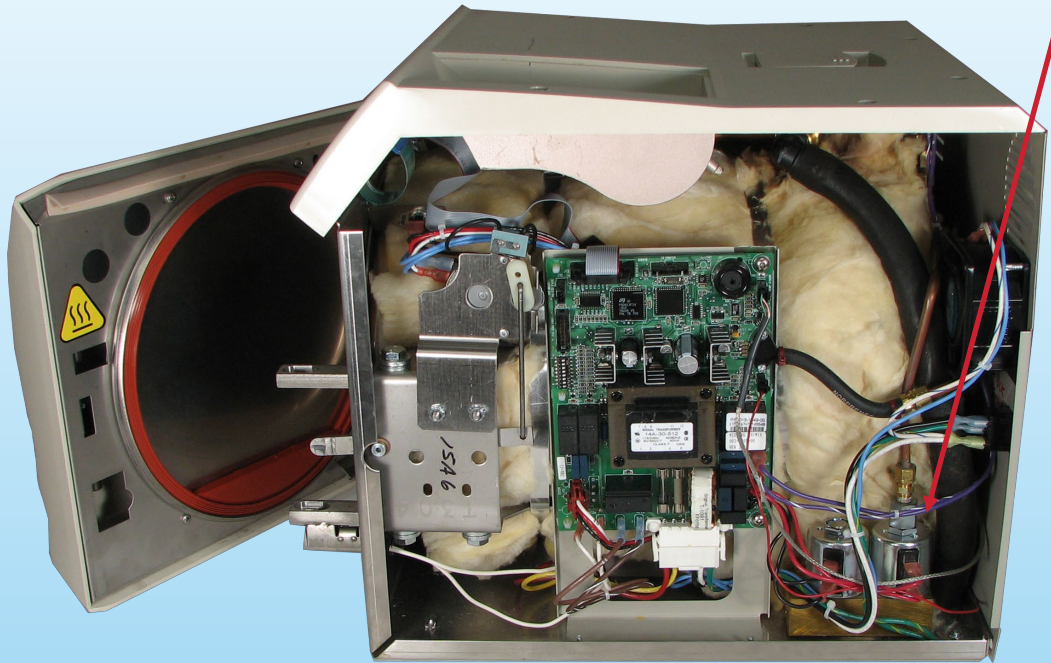
When working within any valves (manual or electrical) ensure that all seals and seats are clean and free of chips or cracks. Whenever possible replace all o-rings and gaskets to ensure a tight seal.

Tech Tips: Midmark M9 Side Panel

Valve Assembly

Tech Tip #8

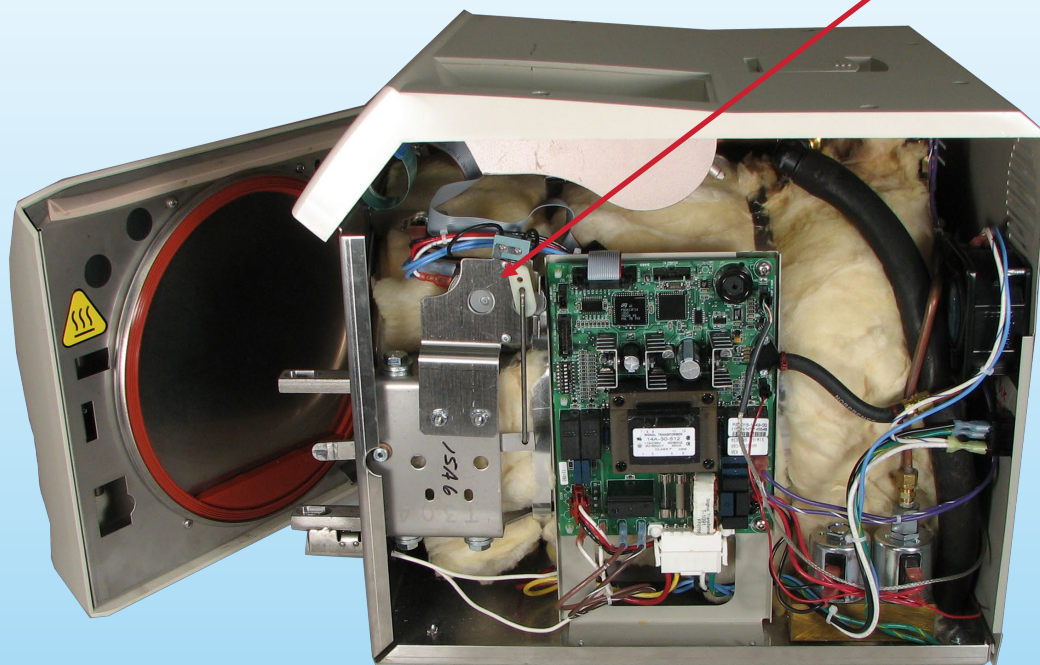
When checking the coil in an electrical valve be sure to read the specifications printed on the body of the valve – if the letters “FWR” appear as part of the voltage specification this indicates the presence of a full wave rectifier within the coil. A full wave rectifier within the coil will prevent you from measuring the resistance of the coil directly – the resistance of a functional full wave rectified coil should be approximately 3 to 4 Meg Ohms.



“FWR” on the label of a coil indicates that a full wave rectifier is present within the coil.

Tech Tips: Midmark M9 Side Panel

Door Motor Assembly



Tech Tip #9

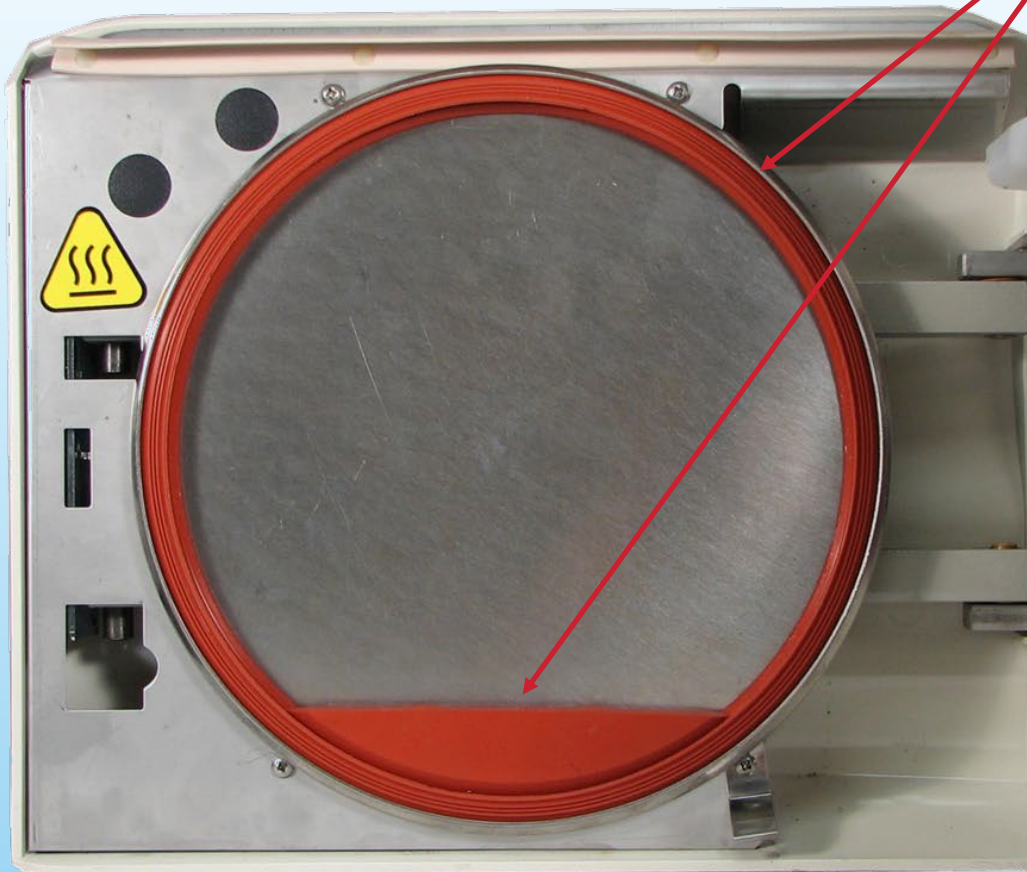
The presence of a door motor (or a pulse solenoid in the older models) is the difference between the M9, M11 and the M9D, M11D. The D style sterilizers have manually operated doors.

Tech Tip #10

Sold as a complete kit, the door motor has two mounting positions for the cam based on the size of the chamber – setting the cam to the wrong position will damage both the cam and the motor.

Tech Tips: Midmark M9 Door Panel

Door Gasket and Water Dam



Tech Tip #1

When troubleshooting a leaking door gasket - remember that door gaskets can be reversed and rotated 90 degrees as a possible solution to stopping small pressure leaks.

Tech Tip #2

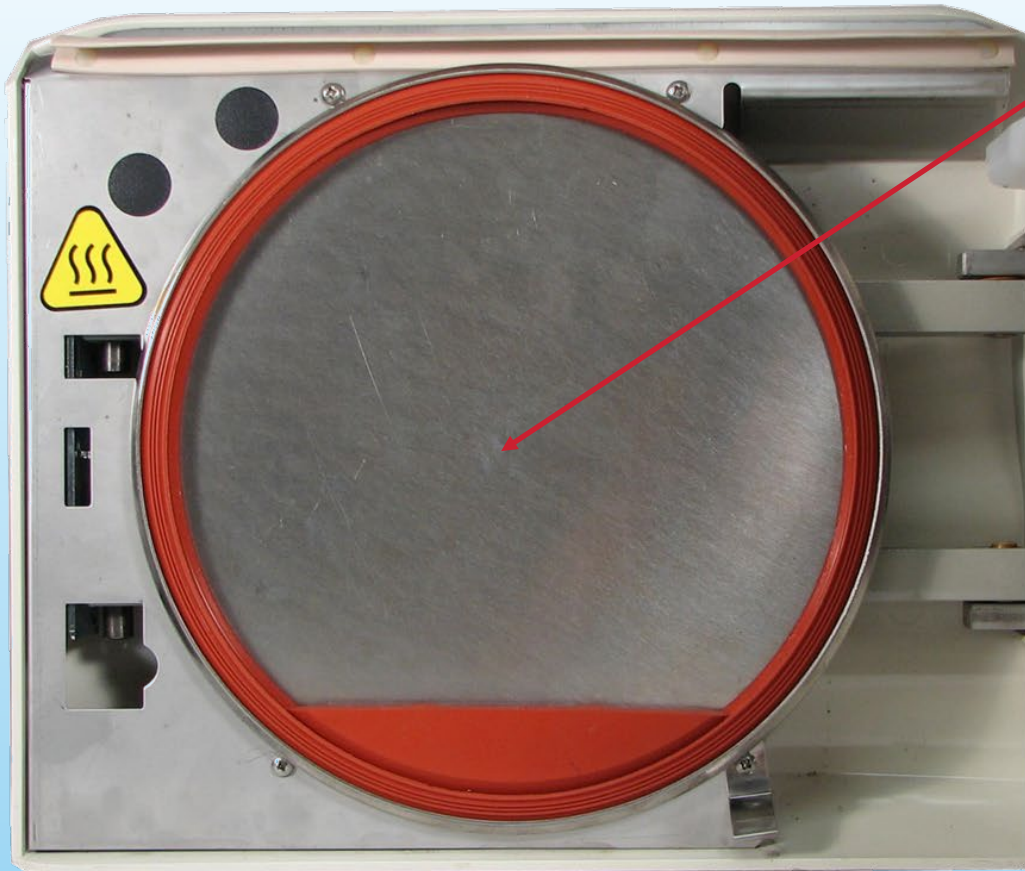
Part of the Planned Maintenance Kit, the door gasket and water dam should be replaced yearly. During the process of replacing the door gasket, clean water and a mild soap solution should be used with a fiber pad to clean the face and interior of the gasket groove or race.

Important Note:

Never use the support wire with an RPI gasket to fit the M9/M11. The support wire is designed only to be used with the OEM gasket.

Tech Tips: Midmark M9 Door Panel

***Insulation Pad
(Not visible In photo)***

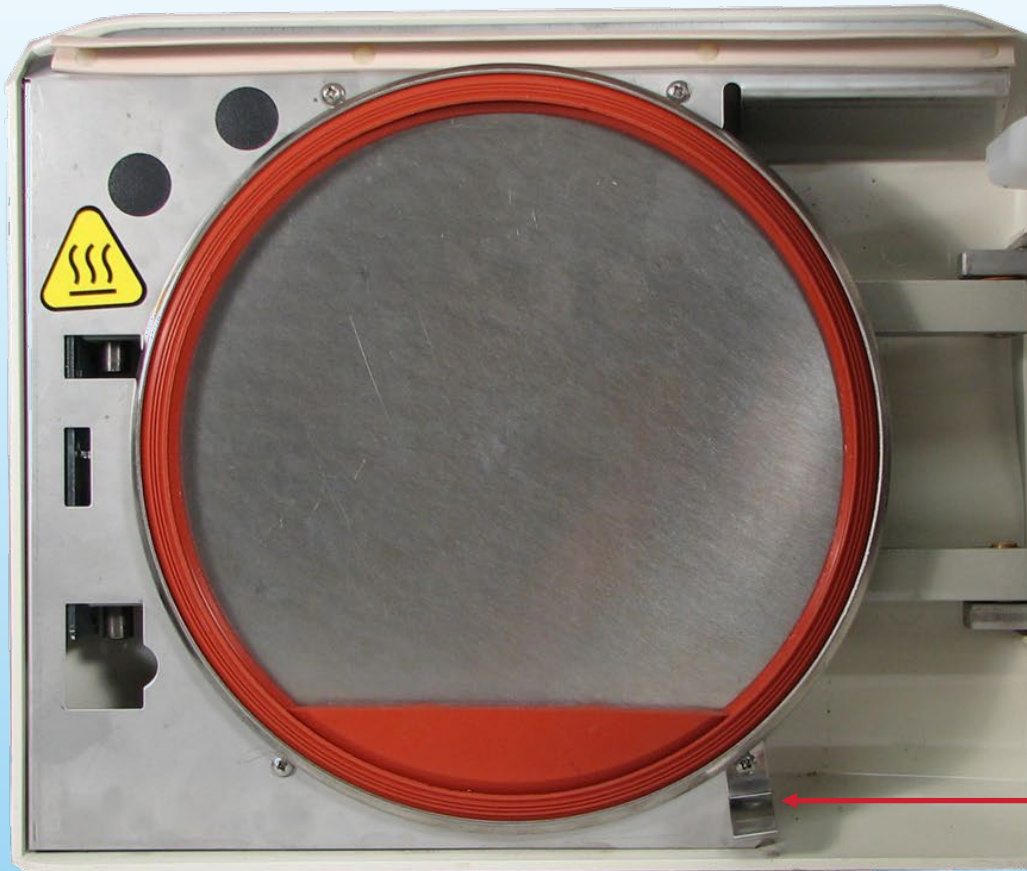


Tech Tip #3

A leaking door that cannot be fixed by repeatedly replacing the Door Gasket could be caused by compression of this pad. Located between the door pan and the door frame, the insulation pad helps to keep steam within the chamber from condensing on the inside of the door.

Tech Tips: Midmark M9 Door Panel

Door Spring

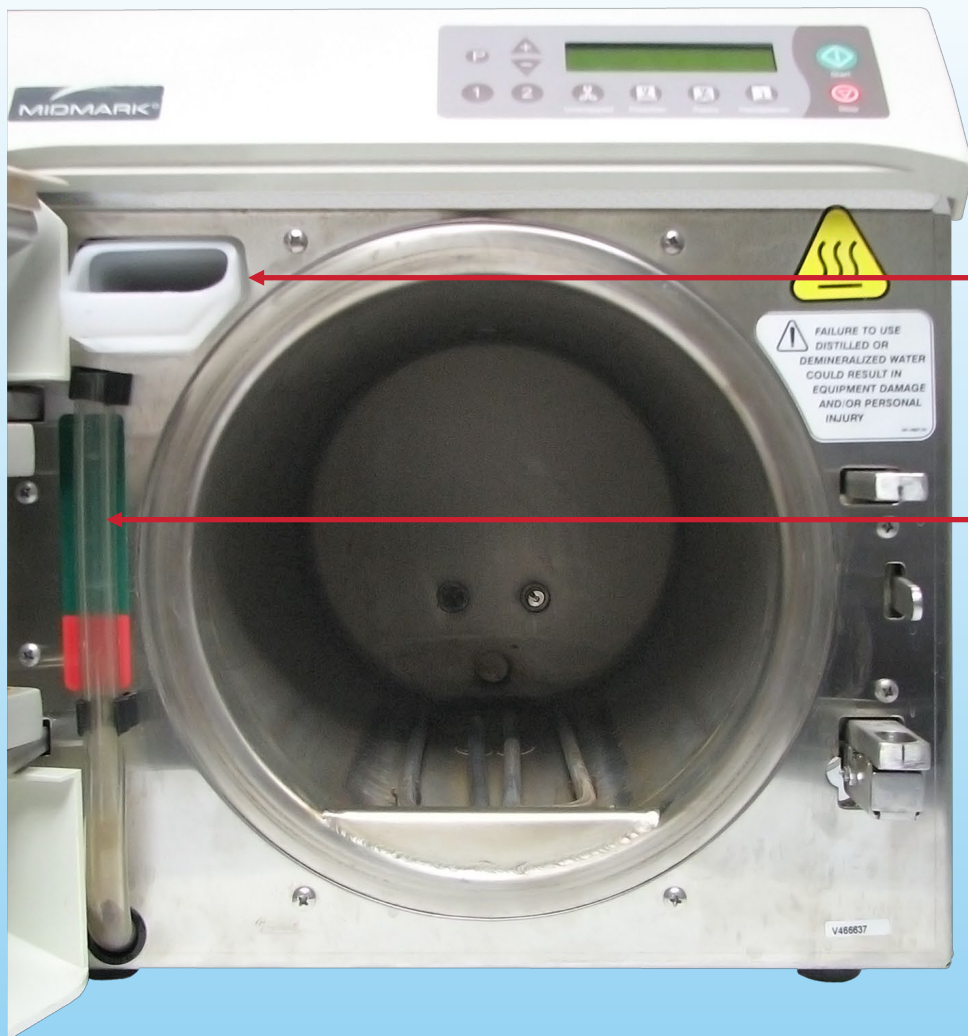


Tech Tip #4

Replaced yearly as part of the Planned Maintenance Kit these steel springs can be doubled to increase the amount of kick they give the opening door.

Tech Tips: Midmark M9 Chamber

Water Fill and Level / Drain Tube



Tech Tip #1

Water quality matters. Never use mineral, spring or “drinking” water to fill the sterilizer – their high mineral content will lead to deposits in the chamber, reservoir, valves and air jets - a good quality distilled water is ideal. Never use deionized water either, the lack of free ions in the water will leach metal from the chamber, tubing, fittings and valves causing various failures.

Also, be sure that the water level is in the green zone and not filled to the top before running a cycle.

Tech Tips: Midmark M9 Chamber

Door Switch

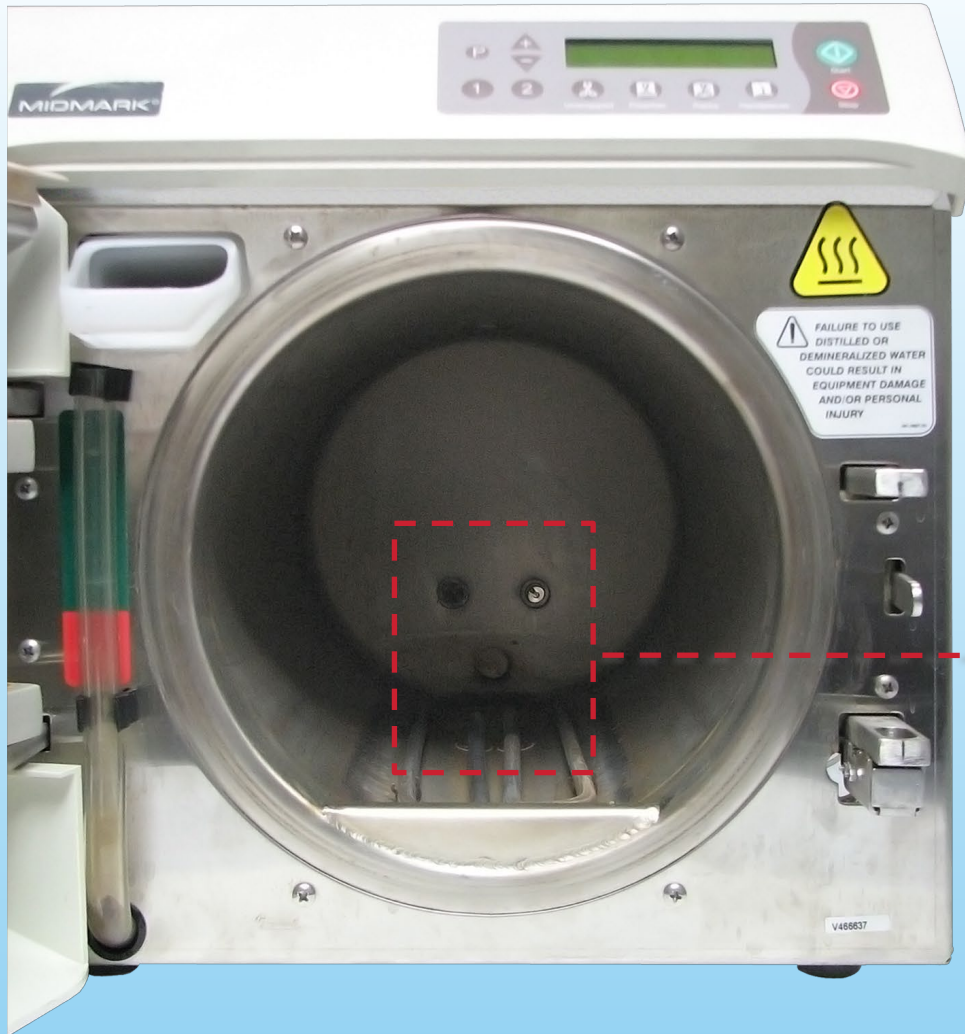


Tech Tip #2

Door switch problems can also indicate a broken spring arm. The spring arm, a thin steel plate with a right-angled bend at its end may have cracked preventing activation of the door switch.

Tech Tips: Midmark M9 Chamber

Chamber Filter



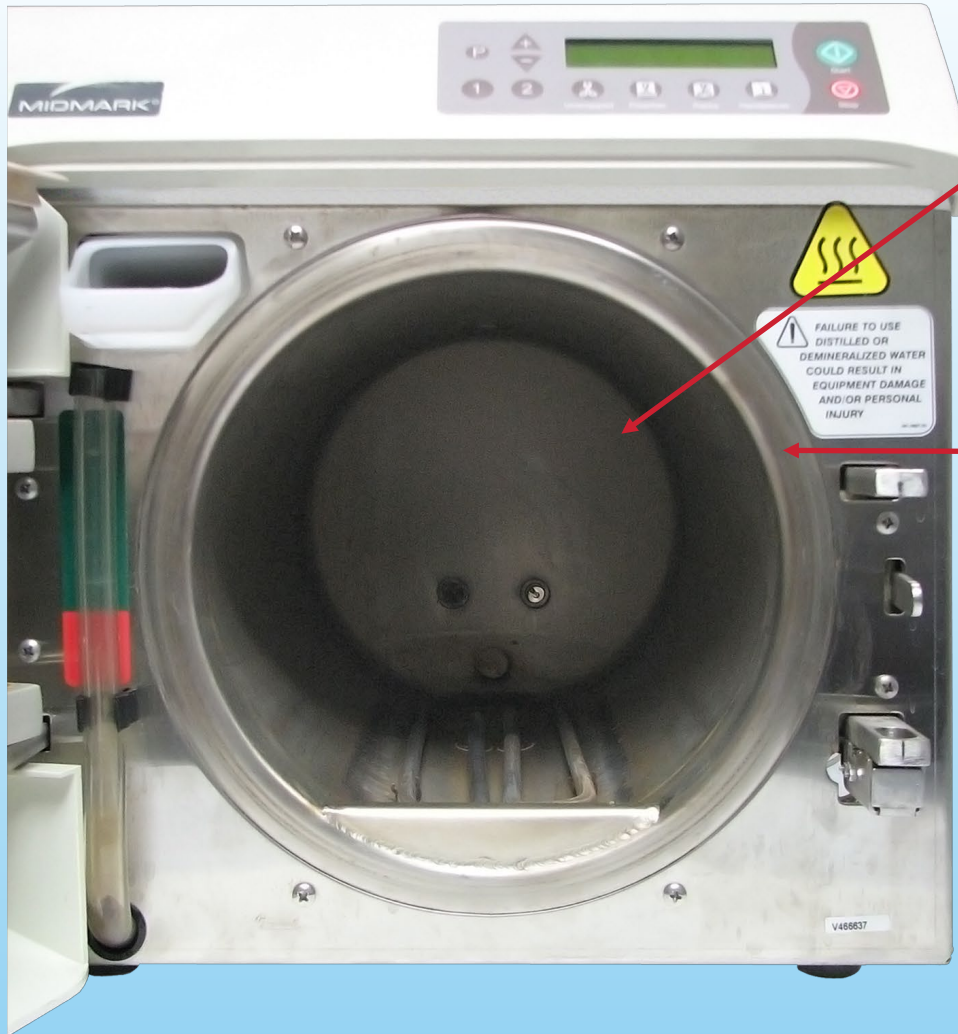
Tech Tip #3

Part of the annual Planned Maintenance Kit, the chamber filter(s) can also be cleaned with a stiff brush or in an ultrasonic cleaner.



Tech Tips: Midmark M9 Chamber

Chamber Face and Interior



Tech Tip #4

Never scrub the inside of a sterilizer's chamber with a product that smells like or contains chlorine bleach. Chlorine will remove the passivation layer applied to the interior of the chamber and will lead to rusting, pitting and eventual chamber failure.

Tech Tip #5

To remove gasket residue from the chamber face, and any residue that a chamber cleaner may leave behind inside the chamber, use a fiber pad with a simple solution of clean water and a mild soap.

Tech Tips: Midmark M9 Chamber

Chamber Face and Interior

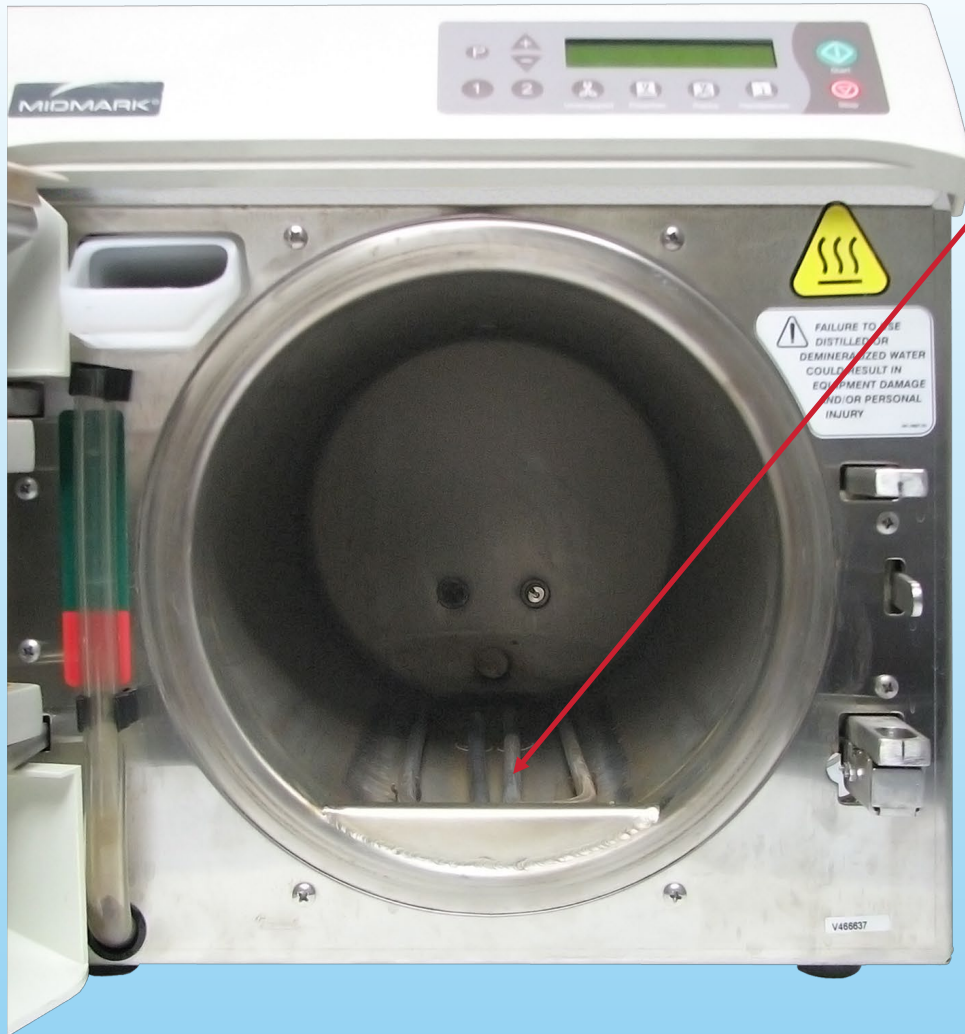


Tech Tip #6

Used as part of the user's monthly maintenance requirements, chamber cleaners are designed specifically for each manufacturer's sterilizers. They must be used as directed by the manufacturer and should not be interchanged.

Qualification testing (Biological Indicators or Spore Tests) should be performed after all service or maintenance procedures to ensure the proper functionality of the sterilizer. Color changing or chemical indicators do not guarantee sterilization, they should only be used as a visual indicator that the instruments have been exposed to steam.

Tech Tips: Midmark M9 Chamber Heating Element



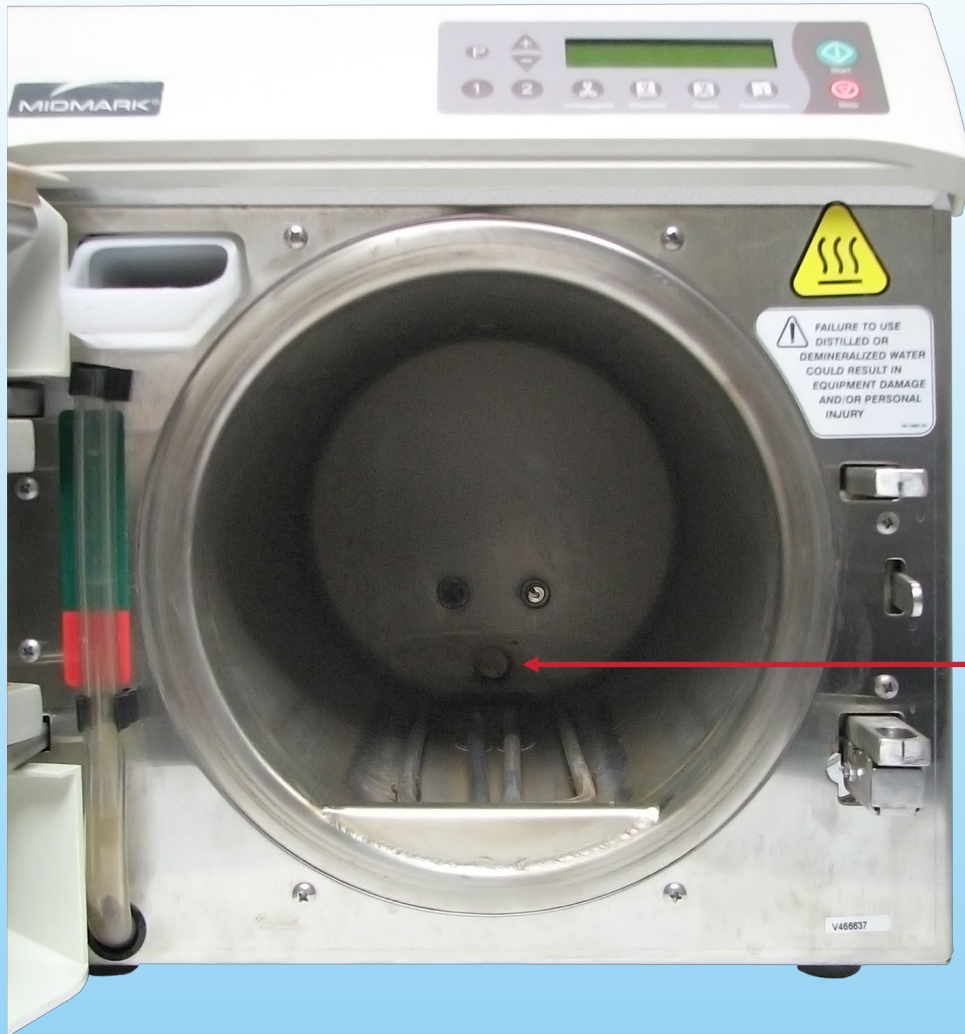
Tech Tip #7

When inspecting the heating element look for small cracks, pits and burned spots – these are indicators of heater failures.

Sterilizers do not always do well with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI). Whenever possible install sterilizers on dedicated lines without any other large current draws (such as a compressor). If a GFCI is unavoidable one of the major causes of the leakage current involves the heating element – changing the element may lower the measured leakage current.

Tech Tips: Midmark M9 Chamber

Water Level Sensor



Tech Tip #8

Electrically isolated from the chamber the Water Level Sensor tells the Main PC Board when the chamber is full. Over time it can become covered with deposits which can be cleaned with a mild soap solution and a cleaning pad.

Tech Tip #9

If the Water level Sensor becomes shorted to the chamber the sterilizer will proceed directly from the fill phase of the cycle to the sterilize phase without any water entering the chamber – this condition can lead to overheat errors.

Tech Tips: Midmark M9 Chamber

Temperature Sensor



Tech Tip #10

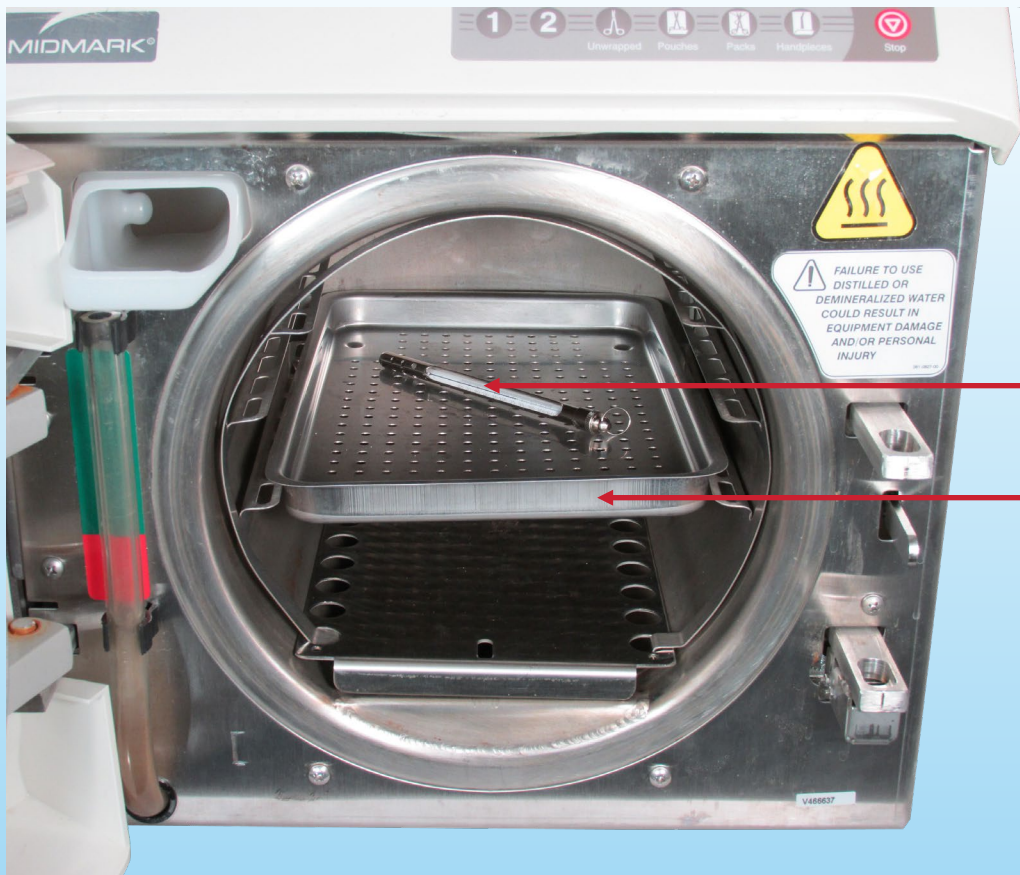
When checking the interior of the chamber look for deposits on the temperature probe and clean them off if present. These deposits could indicate the use of poor quality water. The deposits affect the sensitivity of the probe and can lead to overheat errors.

Tech Tip #11

The temperature sensor is a negative coefficient resistive device – at room temperature the probe should read approximately 1 Meg Ohm resistance and when warmed the resistance should drop.

Tech Tips: Midmark M9 Chamber

Chamber Temperature Verification



Tech Tip #12

For diagnostic purposes, use a Maximum Register Thermometer (RPI Part #RPT113) for temperature verification. The thermometer registers the highest temperature it has been exposed to inside the chamber, and holds that temperature indication until reset. Therefore, do not forget to reset the thermometer by shaking it down before use. Read the thermometer in an upright position and only after it has cooled to ambient temperature or you may obtain a falsely high reading.

Be sure to place the thermometer on the instrument tray during temperature verification (do not place directly onto the chamber surface).



RPI Part #RPT113
Maximum Register Thermometer

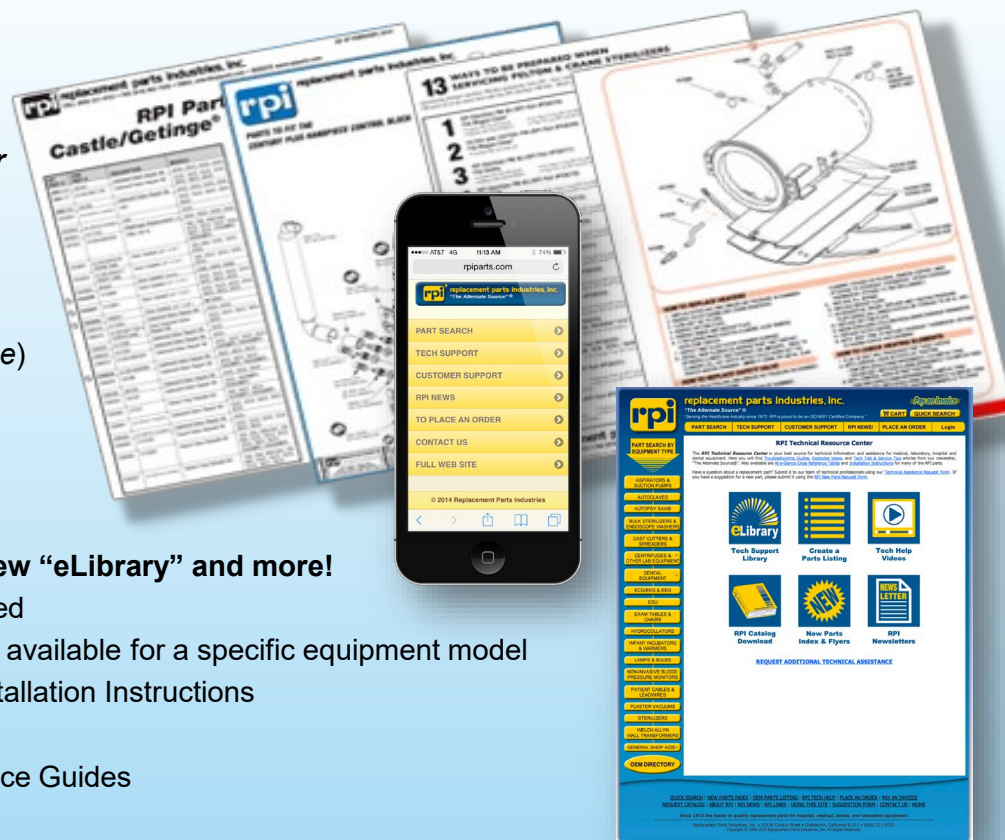


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