



## Care and Maintenance of Laboratory Plasticware

The following guidelines are provided to ensure your plastic laboratory-ware is maintained in the best possible condition.

These guidelines are not definitive and care must be taken as each polymer has its own unique properties. Please also consult the chemical and physical properties charts in this catalogue. If you are still unsure contact Wheaton Technical Service.

### General Precautions

- Chemicals can adversely affect the performance of laboratory plasticware resulting in cracking, loss of strength and flexibility etc.
- If in any doubt, note the type of polymer the product is manufactured from, the chemical that is to be used, then confirm compatibility by checking against the chemical resistance chart.

### Washing and cleaning

- Most laboratory plasticware is readily cleaned in warm water with a detergent and soft cloth or sponge.
- Avoid using abrasive cleaners or scouring pads which can result in surfaces becoming scratched.
- A low or non-alkaline detergent is suitable for cleaning most plasticware.

Note however that polystyrene and polycarbonate products are susceptible to attack by alkalis and a neutral detergent is recommended.

- If using an automatic laboratory washing machine to wash plastic volumetric ware, such as measuring cylinders, employ a wash temperature below 60°C. High temperatures can affect volumetric accuracy.
- Ultrasonic baths may be used for cleaning plasticware. However do take care that the products do not directly touch the transducer membrane.

### Heating

- Never place plasticware in direct contact with a flame or place onto a hotplate surface.
- Most plastics allow the transmission of microwaves. However, as with any microwave vessel, be sure it holds a microwave absorbing material, such as water, before placing in the oven.

### Sterilization

- If the plasticware is to be sterilised by autoclaving always pre-check that the polymer can withstand repeated exposure to temperatures of 121°C.
- Azlon® plastic products that are autoclavable are identified by an *A* symbol in this catalogue.
- When autoclaving bottles always ensure the caps are loosened or removed to prevent accidental collapse or deformation.

### Disposal

- If the disposal of an item of plasticware is unavoidable, always follow local laws and regulations. Where reclamation facilities are offered it can be helpful to segregate the products by polymer type: many Azlon® products are marked with an SPI code to help identification.

