Autoclaving Barblock Assemblies ®

When using an autoclave to sterilize an assembly with polypropylene BarbLock® retainers care must be taken. Retention will be reduced after the Autoclave cycle up to 80% in some cases.

The BarbLock® retainer uses compression to lock and seal flexible tubing onto barbed fittings. When a BarbLock® polypropylene retainer is assembled with tubing and a PP, Nylon, or PC fitting the retainer will compress the fitting and reduce its outside diameter during the autoclave cycle. The reduction of the fitting will reduce the ability of the retainer to seal, because the fitting has become smaller in the autoclave cycle. When a PVDF BarbLock® retainer is used in conjunction with a PVDF fitting, the assembly will provide 96 to 98% of its the original retention.

You have two options with Barblock retainers in the autoclave cycle.

Assembly Option # 1 - Polypropylene BarbLock® retainers:

1. Assemble the tube and fitting in the normal way.
2. Assemble the Polypropylene BarbLock® retainer to the pre-locked position, but no further.
3. Place the assembly into the autoclave and run the full autoclave cycle.
4. Remove the assembly from the autoclave and let stand for 20 minutes.
5. Use a BarbLock® assembly tool to completely close the pre-locked assembly.
6. The assembly is ready to be put into service.

Assembly Option # 2 - PVDF BarbLock® retainers:

1. Use a PVDF BarbLock® retainer in place of the standard BarbLock Polypropylene retainer.
2. Assemble the tube and fitting in the normal way.
3. Fully assemble the BarbLock® retainer before the autoclave cycle..
4. Place the assembly into the autoclave and run the full autoclave cycle.
5. Remove the assembly from the autoclave and let stand for 20 minutes.
6. The assembly is ready to be put into service.