

# Autoclave Spore Testing

Do you do spore tests in-office or mail-in? Here, Townies discuss how and how often spore testing should be done.

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**rdh83**

Member Since: 03/29/05

Post: 1 of 22

How many offices are using a mail-in spore testing company? How many use an in-office incubator? Which is more cost effective? I'm thinking of switching to an in-office after reviewing the cost of the mail-in we are using (\$6.91) per test and we have two autoclaves. Also how often are you testing (we do weekly, is that overboard)? ■ **Jim**



SEP 28 2011

**djh597**

Member Since: 08/19/03

Post: 2 of 22

Weekly. Mail. I use a program through my dental school and the funds go for a scholarship at the school. I happened to get that scholarship like four times. It's my way of giving back a little. ■

SEP 28 2011

**Techguru**

Member Since: 02/12/07

Post: 3 of 22

Generally, in-office is much more economical long term. It also gives you a little more freedom and reduces down time in the event of a failed test (you can run another right away).

One of the main advantages with the mail-aways is that you have third-party verification (not a huge deal, but some feel this gives you better legal ground). You also have a lower initial investment (no incubator to buy).

Disclaimer: we carry spore testing materials. ■



SEP 29 2011

**Qttruong**

Member Since: 03/26/07

Post: 6 of 22

I had to use two vials at a time (which came out to about \$9 each time).  
One for the control and one to stick in the sterilizer, then incubate both.  
The mail-in kind isn't a vial; it's in a strip form. Very easy. The control strip is already in the envelope. You stick the test strip in sterilizer, then stick it back in envelope and mail. ■

SEP 30 2011

**rdh83**

Member Since: 03/29/05

Post: 7 of 22

Here are my facts:  
12 Patterson mail in tests at \$83 = \$6.91/test wait 10+ days for results  
Incubator, 100 tests at \$375 (no shipping cost thanks to Keith) = \$3.75/test results in 24 hours  
100 tests at \$159 = \$1.59/test after cost of incubator  
2 Autoclaves  
Mail-in = \$13.82/week  
In-office = \$11.25/week (two tests, one control) to start \$4.77/test after cost of incubator  
Which option do you think the boss will go for? ■



OCT 1 2011

**Beowoulf**

Member Since: 05/10/05

Post: 8 of 22

Take a look at SMS (sterilizer monitoring systems). I think I pay \$189/year for weekly spore tests mailed to them in prepaid envelopes. I get the report in a week and an immediate call if there is something not right. ■

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**rdh83**

Member Since: 03/29/05

Post: 10 of 22

Next question for those of you who use the in-office testing: What do you do with the ampoules of spore and media after you are done with the test? Can you just pitch them? Do you have to re-autoclave and pitch them? Are they a bio-hazard? ■



OCT 6 2011

**Lindadouglas**

Member Since: 06/09/06

Post: 11 of 22

The test ampoules will be sterilized if the sterilizer has passed the test, so there should be no microbial growth there. The directions with our spore test kit say to autoclave the control before disposal, however, our sales rep says it is OK to put the incubated control ampoule in the sharps disposal or contaminated waste container. ■



OCT 6 2011

**drstogie**

Member Since: 07/16/02

Post: 18 of 22

Make sure you keep your test results for 12 months. ■



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