



Improper use of a drying oven can potentially lead to a fire. Some basic steps to take to avoid this situation:

Prior to Use:

- Refer to the **manufacturer's instruction manual** to determine operating limitations of the oven.
- **Post** written instructions on how to use the drying oven.
- Ensure the **equipment is properly maintained, the thermostat is calibrated**, and report any faults to your supervisor immediately so they can be corrected.
- Know your sample's combustible/flammable temperature limit and **do not exceed this temperature**.
- **Check the thermostat** regularly to ensure it has an accurate calibration

Loading the Oven:

- **Start** the drying oven **early in the day** to ensure it has reached temperature and can be checked for stability before you leave work for the day.
- Do not overfill the oven. Do not "solid-pile" your sample; **Spread out your sample and leave space for airflow**.
- If the oven has **elements in the bottom** of the oven drying area, ensure there is no way for the items being dried to fall through the shelf directly onto the elements below.
- Use **heat-resistant gloves** when working with a hot oven.
- If the samples need to be dried over a number of days, **start early in the week** so it is not left running over the weekend leaving it unattended for extended periods of time.

In Case of a Sample Overheating

- If the sample contents within the oven start to smolder, **Do Not Open The Oven Door!**
- **If it is safe to do so, turn off** the oven, **unplug** the power cord, and **monitor** for flare-up.
- **Call 911 if a fire develops.**

Oven Use

- When using the drying oven **DO NOT** exceed a maximum temperature of _____C°/ F° (circle one) and/or a maximum usage time of _____minutes/hours (circle one).

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