



# Steam Indicator Tape Selection Guide

Free guide to tape types, performance standards and selection criteria.

## What steam indicator tape does

Steam indicator tape is a Type 1 process indicator (ISO 11140-1). Applied across the closure of a pack, it holds the pack closed and shows — by an irreversible colour change — that the pack has been exposed to the steam sterilization process, so processed and unprocessed packs are never mixed up. It does not prove sterility.

## Selection criteria

- Performance at your cycle parameters: 121 °C / 20 min gravity and 132-134 °C / 4-6 min pre-vacuum.
- Clear, irreversible colour change (light yellow → dark brown/black).
- Adhesion to crepe paper, SMS and paper/film pouches; clean removal.
- ISO 11140-1 Type 1 classification; ISO 13485 manufacturer; CE where applicable.
- Consistent lot quality, defined shelf life and traceability.

## Sterilization parameters

| Cycle      | Temperature | Exposure  |
|------------|-------------|-----------|
| Gravity    | 121 °C      | 15-30 min |
| Pre-vacuum | 134 °C      | 3-5 min   |

## Storage and use

- Store at 15-30 °C, below 60-70 % RH, away from sunlight and sterilant vapours.
- Use before the expiry date; unopened rolls keep for 3 years.
- Apply to a dry surface, press along the full length, do not stretch.
- Do not write over the indicator lines.

## Common mistakes

- Choosing the cheapest tape without testing the colour change at your cycle.
- Using one tape for steam, EO and plasma — each needs its own ink.
- Ignoring adhesion on your packaging materials.
- Suppliers without certificates or consistent lots.

## Kangde Med steam indicator tape

12 / 19 / 25 mm × 50 m rolls, medical-grade crepe paper, lead-free indicator, 3-year shelf life, custom widths and private label available. Request samples at <https://kangdemed.com/request-quote>.

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