Drying Ovens: 
Do’s, Don’t’s & Things to Avoid

**DO**
- Use “hot gloves” and wear them on both hands when practical
- Keep area around the oven clear of combustibles
- Keep several inches of space between oven and the wall and/or other lab equipment
- Make sure equipment is in good working order before use (e.g., displaying temperature accurately)
- Calibrate according to manufacturer’s specs or more frequently if desired
- Set the oven to the lowest temperature needed
- Keep oven clean
- Train new lab members on proper oven use for your lab
- Report to your supervisor if you believe the oven is malfunctioning

**AVOID**
- Putting plastics in the oven: If it’s the only option, check manufacturer’s specs for the material and remember that plastic will soften and deform before it fully melts
- Leaving an in-use oven unattended when possible

**DO NOT**
- Put flammable or corrosive materials in the oven
- Heat sealed containers
- Touch oven exterior while it is on
- Temperature shock items that were in the oven (e.g., immediately dunk in water)
- Use mercury thermometers in any way with ovens
- Place items where they could fall onto exposed heating elements