What are the requirements for storing sterile items?

Sterile items should be stored under environmentally controlled conditions, which means a temperature of approximately 75°F (24°C), a maximum relative humidity of 70%, a positive air flow pressure in relation to adjacent areas, and a minimum of four air exchanges per hour. To comply with fire code regulations and reduce the risk of contamination, **sterile supplies should be stored at least 8 to 10 inches from the floor, at least 18 inches from the ceiling, and at least 2 inches from outside walls.** Fire codes specify minimum distances below the ceiling to ensure the effectiveness of sprinkler systems.

Resource:

**Recommended practices for sterilization, in:**