

Safety Precautions

Follow These Safety Precautions When Cooking in Your Oven

IMPORTANT

Proper cooking depends upon the power, the time set and the quantity of food. If you use a smaller portion than recommended and cook at the time for the recommended portion, fire could result.

1) HOME CANNING / DRYING FOODS / SMALL QUANTITIES OF FOODS

- **DO NOT** use your oven for home canning, your oven cannot maintain the food at the proper canning temperature. Improperly canned food may spoil and be dangerous to consume.
- **DO NOT** dry meats, herbs, fruits or vegetables in your oven. Small quantities of food or foods with low moisture content can dry out, scorch or catch on fire if overheated.

2) POPCORN

Popcorn may be popped in a microwave oven corn popper. Microwave popcorn which pops in its own package is also available. Follow popcorn manufacturers' directions and use a brand suitable for the wattage of your microwave oven.

CAUTION:

When using pre-packaged microwave popcorn, follow recommended package instructions. Check package weight before using the *Popcorn* pad (see *Popcorn Pad* section). Set the oven for the weight of the popcorn package.

If these instructions are not followed, the popcorn may not pop adequately or may ignite and cause a fire. Never leave oven unattended when popping popcorn. Allow the popcorn bag to cool before opening, always open the bag away from your face and body to prevent steam burns.

3) DEEP FAT FRYING

- **DO NOT** attempt to deep fat fry in your microwave oven. Cooking oils may burst into flames and may cause damage to the oven and perhaps result in burns. Microwave utensils may not be able to withstand the temperature of the hot oil, and could shatter or melt.

4) FOODS WITH NONPOROUS SKINS

- Potatoes, apples, whole eggs, egg yolks, whole squash and sausages are examples of foods with nonporous skins. These types of foods must be pierced before microwave cooking to prevent their bursting.
- Use fresh potatoes for baking and cook until just done. Use recommended weights for programmed cooking. Overcooking causes dehydration and may result in a fire.

5) LIQUIDS

- Heated liquids can erupt if not mixed with air. **DO NOT** heat liquids in your microwave oven without first stirring. Overheated liquids will erupt.

6) GLASS TRAY / COOKING UTENSILS / FOIL

- Cooking utensils get hot during microwaving. Heat is transferred from the HOT food to the container and the Glass Tray. Use potholders when removing utensils from the oven or when removing lids or plastic wrap covers from cooking utensils to avoid burns.
- The Glass Tray will get hot during cooking. It should be allowed to cool before handling or before paper products, such as paper plates or microwave popcorn bags, are placed in the oven for microwave cooking.
- When using foil, skewers, warming rack or utensils made of metal in the oven, allow at least 1-inch (2.5 cm) of space between metal material and interior oven walls. If arcing occurs (sparking), remove metal material (skewers, etc.) and/or transfer to a non-metallic container.
- Dishes with metallic trim should **not** be used, as arcing may occur.
- If an entree is heated in a foil tray, maintain at least 1-inch (2.5 cm) spacing from the oven walls.

7) PAPER TOWELS / CLOTHS

- **DO NOT** use paper towels or cloths which contain a synthetic fiber woven into them. The synthetic fiber may cause the towel to ignite. Use paper toweling under supervision.

8) BROWNING DISHES / OVEN COOKING BAGS

- Browning dishes or grills are designed for microwave cooking only. Always follow instructions provided by the manufacturer.
DO NOT preheat browning dish more than 6 minutes.
- If an oven cooking bag is used for microwave cooking, prepare according to package directions. **DO NOT** use a wire twist-tie to close bag, instead use plastic ties, cotton string or a strip cut from the open end of the bag.

9) THERMOMETERS

- **DO NOT** use a conventional meat thermometer in your oven. Arcing may occur. Microwave-safe thermometers are available for both meat and candy.

10) BABY FORMULA / FOOD

- **DO NOT** heat baby formula or food in the microwave oven. The glass jar or surface of the food may appear to be only warm while the interior can be so hot as to burn the infant's mouth and esophagus.

11) REHEATING PASTRY PRODUCTS

- When reheating pastry products, check temperatures of any fillings before eating. Some foods have fillings which heat faster and can be extremely hot, while the surface remains warm to the touch (ex. Jelly Donuts).

12) GENERAL OVEN USAGE GUIDELINES

- **DO NOT** use the oven for any reason other than the preparation of food.
- **DO NOT** leave oven unattended while in use.