

Cooking Equipment Safety



A busy kitchen can be a dangerous place indeed, with many hazards, including sharp edges, heat and open flames, oils and acids, and a fast paced working environment. Therefore, you must maintain a high degree of hazard awareness, adherence to safety procedures, cooperation and communication with your fellow workers in order to prevent injuries.

Do:

- Always make sure equipment is off before plugging it in and starting it.
- Always make sure all the safety guards are in place in all choppers, mixers and food processors.
- Check for frayed cords and loose parts before using any equipment. Plug cooking appliances directly into an outlet.
- If equipment is broken, label “do not use” and notify a supervisor immediately.
- If you must leave the area, turn off the cooking equipment.
- Turn exhaust hoods on before turning on any cooking equipment and dish machines.
- Use oven mitts and arm guards when working on hot equipment such as griddles, broilers, ovens and waffle bakers, and when holding hot pans.
- Clean equipment after each use.
- Remove pans from ovens and steamers by holding with both hands and move slowly to prevent burns.
- Open oven and steamer doors slowly to prevent burns.
- Grease Fires—Extinguish fire by placing lid over container, pouring salt or baking soda over the fire or using a CO2 fire extinguisher.
- If you catch fire, STOP, DROP & ROLL

Don't:

- Do not use kitchen equipment until you have been trained on its use.
- Do not wear loose-fitting clothing as it may get caught in equipment, causing injury.
- Never leave cooking equipment unattended. If you must perform other tasks, use timers to remind you of the equipment in use.
- Do not store flammable items like pan release spray near heat-producing equipment or open flames
- Don't overfill pans, pots and kettles as product may spill causing burns.
- Never carry or move oil containers when the oil is hot or is on fire
- Never throw water on a grease fire; it makes it worse.
- Never use an extension cord for a cooking appliance, as it can overload the circuit and cause a fire.