

TOO HOT TO HANDLE



Putting a lid on
kitchen fires

Too Hot to Handle: Putting a lid on kitchen fires

More fires start in the kitchen than any other room in the home. In fact, careless cooking is one of the leading causes of fire-related deaths. The majority of kitchen fires begin with cooking equipment such as stoves and microwave ovens.

Prevent kitchen fires

Keep your stove and oven clean. Built-up grease and food particles are easily ignited. Keep combustibles such as curtains, dish towels and newspapers away from the stove, oven and all other appliances. Unplug kettles, frying pans and other appliances when not in use.

Be alert about cooking habits



- Keep pot handles turned toward the back of the stove.

- Avoid loose sleeves while cooking; loose clothing could catch fire.
- Never leave food that is cooking unattended on the stove.
- Avoid storing frequently used items above the stove where you may be burned reaching for them.

- Remove pans of cooking fat or oils from the stove when not in use - it's easy to accidentally turn on the wrong burner.



In case of a grease or pan fire

- Turn off the stove. Smother flames with a pot lid or larger pan, if possible. Protect your hand with an oven mitt or wrapped dish towel.



- Use an approved portable fire extinguisher only if you are familiar with its safe operation.
- Never throw water or flour on a grease fire.
- In case of an oven fire, close the oven door and turn off the oven.
- Never touch or attempt to carry a flaming pot. The contents may spill, spread or burn you.
- If the fire is not brought under control immediately, get you and your family out and call 9-1-1.

What if I accidentally make contact with a flame or hot surface?

- If your clothing catches fire, stop where you are. Drop to the ground. Roll back and forth to put out the fire.

- Immediately apply cool running water to a burn for 5 to 10 minutes to reduce pain and to avoid further skin damage. Seek immediate medical attention if blisters appear or skin is charred.



How safe is my microwave oven?

- Microwave ovens are safe appliances, but if you accidentally place a twist-tie or other piece of metal inside, electrical arcing may occur and pose a danger.
- In case of fire, unplug the microwave and don't open the appliance door until the flames are completely out.



What other steps can I take to prevent kitchen fires?



- Make stove controls easy to read from a distance. Mark the "off" position with a bright red dot.
- Examine cords and plugs on stoves, ovens, toasters, coffee makers and other cooking devices, for signs of cracking or fraying.

Look for signs of overheating

Check for recognized testing laboratory labels to show that the unit has been safely designed.

A POT LID IS YOUR GREATEST DEFENCE AGAINST THE SPREAD OF FIRE

In case of an emergency call Markham Fire & Emergency Services at 9-1-1

For more information, contact the Fire Prevention Division at (905) 415-7521, or visit our website at www.city.markham.on.ca