



MULTI-COOKERS, SLOW COOKERS, AND IMMERSION WAND FOOD SAFETY

Multi-cookers, slow cookers and immersion wands are convenient ways to prepare food. Care should be taken to avoid temperature abuse (holding food between 41°F - 135°F for too long) which can lead to foodborne illness. Use a thermometer to ensure safe cooking temperatures have been reached. Always wash hands, cooking equipment and food preparation areas before starting. Manufacturer's instructions should always be followed for safe use.



This multi-functional device cooks food at high and low temperatures

- Always use a thermometer to make sure food has reached a safe temperature.
- Wash hands, appliances, utensils and preparation areas before starting to cook.
- Avoid temperature abuse, be careful when using the delay feature, foods left at room temperature are at risk of bacteria multiplying rapidly and causing foodborne illness.
- Refrigerate or freeze leftovers immediately and do not store food in the pot.

Slow cookers

Cooks food at a low temperature approximately 170°F-280°F



- Pre-heat cooker.
- Always thaw meat and poultry first.
- Add liquid, this is necessary to create the steam needed to cook the food.
- Do not cook on warm which is designed to keep already hot foods hot.
- Keep the lid on to maintain temperature.
- Check food with a thermometer before eating to make sure it has reached a safe temperature.

Immersion wands

Cooks food at a low temperature for an extended period of time



- Do not fill pot above maximum fill line.
- Use plain water only.
- Seal bagged food before immersing in water.
- Press air from bag so it stays immersed.
- Follow the minimum and maximum cook-time instructions that come with your device. If immuno-compromised choose higher temperature range.
- If food will not be eaten immediately cool by plunging into ice water to reduce the temperature quickly, then refrigerate or freeze.

NC STATE EXTENSION

For more information contact <u>ncsafeplates@ncsu.edu</u> Updated August 13, 2020