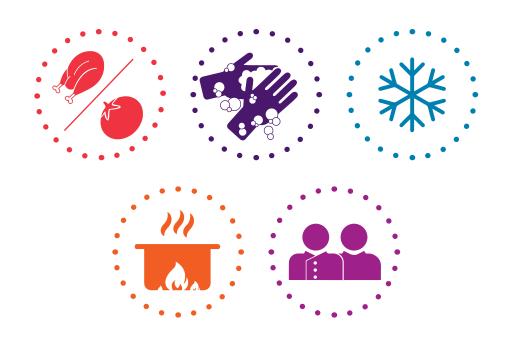


SAFER FOOD BETTER BUSINESS CHINESE CUISINE



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU START

It is easy for you to spread bacteria to food without realising. These bacteria are invisible and could make customers ill. Your personal hygiene is important. This is what you need to do to keep food safe:

BEFORE YOU START WORKING WITH FOOD



Always wash your hands



Wear clean clothes



Wear an apron if handling unwrapped food



Tell your manager if you have vomiting or diarrhoea and do not work with food



Take off your watch and jewellery





It is a good idea to tie hair back and wear a hat or hairnet

WHEN YOU ARE WORKING WITH FOOD



No smoking



No eating or drinking



Avoid touching your face, coughing or sneezing over food



Cover cuts with a brightly coloured waterproof dressing

WASHING HANDS EFFECTIVELY



Step 1: Wet your hands thoroughly under warm running water and squirt liquid soap onto your palm



Step 2: Rub your hands together palm to palm to make a lather



Step 3: Rub the palm of one hand along the back of the other and along the fingers. Repeat with the other hand



Step 4: Put your palms together with fingers interlocked and rub in between each of the fingers thoroughly



Step 5: Rub around your thumbs on each hand and then rub the fingertips of each hand against your palms



Step 6: Rinse off the soap with clean water and dry your hands thoroughly on a disposable towel. Turn off the tap with the towel and then throw the towel away

WHEN TO WASH HANDS



Before touching or handling any food, especially ready-to-eat food



After going to the toilet



After every break



After touching raw meat, poultry, fish, eggs or unwashed vegetables



After touching a cut or changing a dressing



After touching or emptying bins



After any cleaning



After touching phones, light switches, door handles, cash registers and money

HOW TO USE THIS PACK

Welcome to Safer food, better business for Chinese cuisine

IS THIS PACK FOR ME?

This pack is for small catering businesses serving Chinese cuisine, such as restaurants and takeaways that have registered with the local authority as a food business.

It has been developed by the Food Standards Agency, working with catering businesses, to be practical and easy to use.

The pack is available in traditional Chinese or in English.

If you are not sure if this pack is suitable for your business, contact the environmental health department at your local authority.

HOW DOES THIS PACK HELP ME COMPLY WITH THE LAW?

Food safety and hygiene regulations say that you must be able to show what you do to make and sell food that is safe to eat and have this written down. The pack helps you do this.

This pack is based on the principles of HACCP (hazard analysis and critical control point), but you will not find words such as 'HACCP' or 'hazard' in the pack because we have cut out all the jargon.

WHO SHOULD TAKE CHARGE OF THE PACK?

The person who is responsible for the day-to-day running of the business is the best person to work through the pack.

It is a good idea to involve other staff to help the pack work in your business.



SHOULD I WRITE IN THE PACK IN CHINESE OR ENGLISH?

You can write in either Chinese or English, depending on what suits your business. Remember that what you write needs to be understood by the staff using that part of the pack.

HOW DOES THE PACK WORK?

The pack contains sheets for you to work through and complete. These are called 'safe methods'.

It also contains a diary for you to fill in every day and write down anything different that happens, including anything that goes wrong.



HOW TO USE THE SAFE METHODS

Front

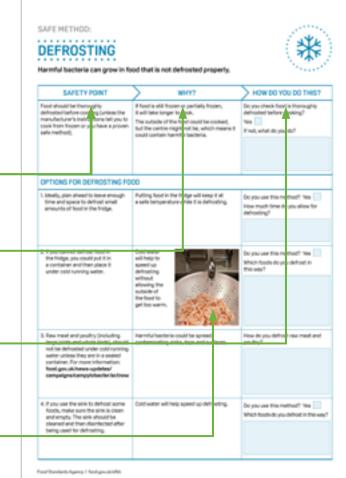
The **'Safety point'** column highlights things that are important to make food safely.

The **'Why'** column tells you why the safety point is important.

The 'How do you do this?' column is for you to write down what you do.

In some places you only need to tick a box and in other places write a small amount.

Pictures help to illustrate the safety points.



Back

Some safe methods have a **'Check it'** section, which tells you what to look for to make sure your method has worked.

The 'What to do if things go wrong' column gives practical tips on how to tackle problems.

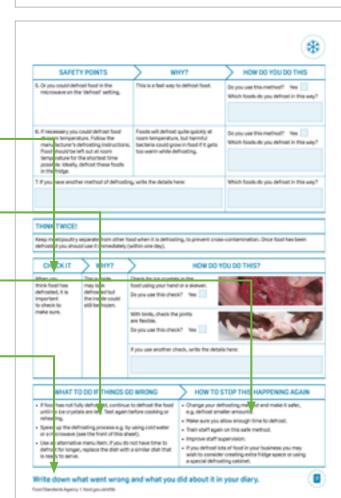
The 'How to stop this happening again' column tells you how you can prevent problems.

If things go wrong, write down what happened and what you did in your diary. Each safe method reminds you to do this.

Sometimes the pictures are marked with one of these symbols:



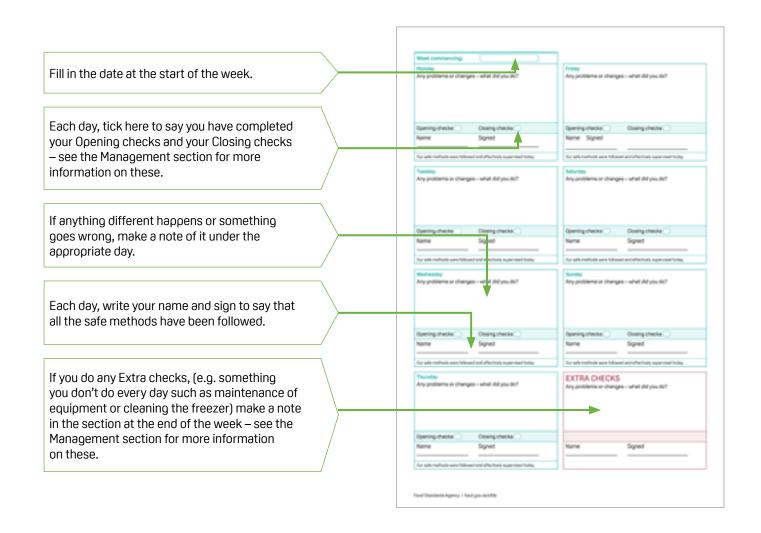




HOW TO USE THE DIARY



The diary should be filled in every day by the person responsible for running the business. There is also a 4-weekly review so you can look back at previous weeks and identify any persistent problems.





WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

Work through the pack one section at a time and complete all the safe methods that are relevant to your business. It will take you about one hour to complete a section.

When you have worked through all the sections, make sure you and your staff:

- · follow the safe methods all the time
- · fill in the diary every day

HOW DO I USE THE 'WORKING WITH FOOD?' FACTSHEET WITH THE PACK?

Use the 'Working with food?' factsheet to train your staff on good personal hygiene on their first day at work. It has been designed to help overcome language difficulties.

There are helpful videos available at food.gov.uk/business-industry/caterers/training/hygiene-videos

HOW WILL I BENEFIT FROM USING THIS PACK?

Using the pack in your business will help you to:

- · comply with food hygiene regulations
- · show what you do to make food safely
- · train staff
- protect your business's reputation
- · improve your business, e.g. by wasting less food
- · improve your food hygiene rating

WILL USING THE PACK HELP ME GET A GOOD FOOD HYGIENE RATING?

Yes. Using the pack can show the methods and checks you are using to prepare food safely. This could help your food hygiene rating.

DO I NEED TO KEEP LOTS OF DAILY RECORDS?

No, you do not need lots of daily records. Once you have worked through the pack and completed all the relevant safe methods, you only need to fill in the diary each day.

This should take just one minute, unless you have something special to write down.

It is a legal requirement to keep a record of what food products you have bought, who you bought them from, the quantity, the date and allergen information. Usually the easiest way to do this is to keep all your invoices and receipts.

WHY DO I NEED TO FILL IN THE DIARY IN THE PACK?

Completing the diary helps you comply with the law because it shows what you do to sell food that is safe to eat. If you do not fill in the diary every day, you will not comply with the law.

On each day, you need to tick to confirm that your opening and closing checks have been done, and sign to say that your safe methods have been followed. This should take just one minute.

If anything different happens, or if something goes wrong, it is important to make a note of it in the diary, so you can show what happened and what you did to put it right.

DO I NEED TO USE A TEMPERATURE PROBE?

You can use this pack in your business without using a temperature probe. However, if you use methods or checks for cooking, reheating, hot holding or chilling that are different to what is recommended in the pack, using a probe is still the best way to prove that what you do is safe. You may also like to use a probe for extra reassurance that your methods are safe. See the 'Prove it' safe method in the Management section.

I AM ALREADY USING SAFER FOOD, BETTER BUSINESS FOR CATERERS. DO I NEED TO USE THIS PACK INSTEAD?

No, you can carry on using your current pack if you want to. But you might find that some features of the pack for Chinese cuisine are more appropriate for your business. For example, the Cooking section in this pack focuses on the types of food cooked in Chinese cuisine. You may also prefer to use this pack because it's available in Chinese.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

For more information on food safety, talk to the environmental health department at your local authority or visit **food.gov.uk/business-industry/food-hygiene**

For details of Food Standards Agency publications, visit food.gov.uk/about-us/publications.

ABOUT THIS GUIDANCE

This guidance follows the Government Code of Practice on Guidance. If you believe this guidance breaches the Code for any reason, or if you have any comments on the guidance, please contact us at **FoodBusinessHygiene@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk**

This guidance was originally published in January 2007. The most recent update is January 2016 and it will be reviewed again in January 2019.

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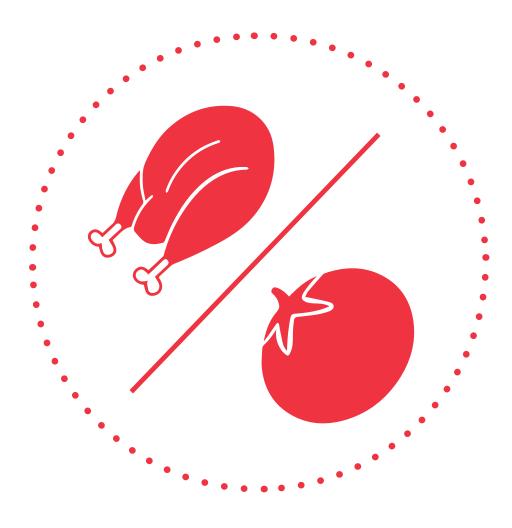
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CROSS-CONTAMINATION

Cross-contamination is one of the most common causes of food poisoning. It happens when harmful bacteria are spread onto food from other food, surfaces, hands or equipment.



Cross-contamination is one of the most common causes of food poisoning. It happens when harmful bacteria are spread onto food from other food, surfaces, hands or equipment.

These harmful bacteria often come from raw meat/poultry, fish, eggs and unwashed vegetables. So it is especially important to handle these foods carefully.

Other sources of bacteria can include:

- staff
- pests
- · equipment
- cloths
- · dirt or soil

When you handle raw and ready-to-eat food in your business you may need to consider extra procedures to help keep the food you produce safe. More information can be found at: food.gov.uk/ecoliguide

Do not forget that you should also protect food from 'physical contamination' (where objects get into food, e.g. broken glass or pieces of packaging) and 'chemical contamination' (where chemicals get into food, e.g. cleaning products or pest control chemicals).

This section also includes information on food allergies. Good cleaning and handling practices can help manage the risk of cross-contamination from allergens.



PERSONAL HYGIENE AND FITNESS TO WORK

It is vital for staff to follow good personal hygiene practices to help prevent bacteria from spreading to food.

SAFETY POINT	WHY?	HOW DO YOU DO THIS?
Staff should always wash their hands thoroughly before handling and preparing food. (See the 'Handwashing' method in the Cleaning section.)	Handwashing is one of the best ways to prevent harmful bacteria from spreading.	Are all staff trained to wash their hands before preparing food? Yes No
All staff should wear clean clothes when working with food. Ideally, they should change into clean work clothes before starting work and not wear these clothes outside food preparation areas.	Clothes can bring dirt and bacteria into food preparation areas. Wearing clean clothes helps to prevent this.	Do your staff wear clean work clothes? Yes No Do your staff change clothes before starting work? Yes No
Work clothes should be appropriate for staff duties and protect food from contamination. Ideally, they should be light - coloured with no external pockets. It is also a good idea to wear a clean apron or disposable apron over work clothes. Work clothes should minimise skin coming into contact with food and prevent hairs, fibres and the contents of pockets (which can carry bacteria) getting into food. Light colours show dirt clearly.		Describe your staff's work clothes here:
Staff should change aprons after working with raw food e.g. meat, poultry, eggs or unwashed vegetables.	Aprons help to stop dirt and bacteria from getting onto work clothes and they can be removed easily for washing, or thrown away if disposable.	What type of aprons do you use? Which tasks do you use them for?
It is good practice for staff to keep hair tied back or wear a hat when preparing food.	If hair is not tied back or covered, it is more likely to fall into food and staff are more likely to touch their hair.	Do staff keep hair tied back? Yes No Do staff wear hats or hairnets when preparing food? Yes No
Staff should not wear watches or jewellery when preparing food (except a plain wedding band).	Watches and jewellery can collect and spread dirt and harmful bacteria, and fall into the food.	Do your staff take off watches and jewellery before preparing food? Yes No
Staff should not smoke, drink, eat or chew gum while handling food. Staff should also avoid touching their face or nose, or coughing and sneezing over or near food, and wash hands if they do.	All of these lead to staff touching their face or mouth. Harmful bacteria can be spread from someone's face or mouth to their hands and then onto food.	Are staff trained not to do these things? Yes No



FITNESS FOR WORK

SAFETY POINT	WHY?
Staff should be 'fit for work' at all times. This means that they must not be suffering from, or carrying, an illness or	People who are not 'fit for work' could spread harmful bacteria or viruses to food.
disease that could cause a problem with food safety.	See our guidance for more information: food.gov.uk/ sites/default/files/multimedia/pdfs/publication/ fitnesstoworkguide09v3.pdf
Any member of staff who has diarrhoea and/or vomiting should report it to their manager immediately and either stay at home or go home straight away.	People suffering from these symptoms often carry harmful bacteria on their hands and can spread them to food or equipment they touch.
Staff who have had diarrhoea and/or vomiting should not return to work until they have had no symptoms for 48 hours.	Even if the diarrhoea and vomiting has stopped, someone can still carry harmful bacteria for 48 hours afterwards.
Staff should tell their manager if they have any cuts or sores and these should be completely covered with a brightly coloured waterproof dressing.	Cuts and sores can carry harmful bacteria. Covering them prevents bacteria spreading to food. Coloured waterproof dressings can be seen more easily if they drop into food.

WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG

HOW TO STOP THIS HAPPENING AGAIN

- If staff are not 'fit for work', move them out of food handling areas or send them home. Throw away any unwrapped foods they have handled.
- Train staff again on this safe method.
- Improve staff supervision.

Write down what went wrong and what you did about it in your diary.



MANAGE IT	WHY?	HOW DO YOU DO THIS?
Make sure that all staff understand the importance of being 'fit for work' and what they need to report.	This is so they understand how some types of illness can affect the safety of food and that they must tell their manager if they have these types of illness.	Make a note in your diary of when you have trained staff on this safe method.
It is a good idea to have a separate area where staff can change and store their outdoor clothes.	Clothes could be a source of bacteria if they are left lying around.	Where do staff change and store their outdoor clothes?
It is good practice to keep a clean set of work clothes or disposable aprons for visitors.	Anyone entering the kitchen can bring in bacteria on their clothes.	Where do you keep clean uniforms/ disposable aprons?

SAFE METHOD:

CLOTHS



Cloths can be one of the top causes of cross-contamination in the kitchen. It is essential to use them safely to prevent bacteria and allergens from spreading.

SAFETY POINT	WHY?
Use disposable cloths wherever possible, and throw them away after each task.	This will make sure that any bacteria and allergens picked up by the cloth will not be spread.
Always use a new or freshly cleaned and disinfected cloth to wipe work surfaces, equipment or utensils that will be used with ready-to-eat food.	It is especially important to protect ready-to-eat food from bacteria. This is because the food will not be cooked, so any bacteria on the food will not be killed.
Take away re-usable cloths for thorough washing and disinfection after using them with raw meat/poultry, eggs or raw vegetables – and surfaces that have touched these foods.	Raw meat/poultry and eggs are more likely to contain harmful bacteria than other foods. The soil on vegetables can also contain harmful bacteria.
If using re-usable cloths, make sure they are thoroughly washed, disinfected and dried properly between tasks (not just when they look dirty).	Using dirty cloths can spread bacteria and allergens very easily. Cloths that are not dried properly can increase the risk of bacteria.
Ideally, wash cloths in a washing machine on a very hot cycle. A suitably high temperature can be obtained using a hot cycle of 90°C.	A hot wash cycle will clean the cloths thoroughly and kill bacteria (disinfect).
If you wash and disinfect cloths by hand, make sure all the food and dirt has been removed by washing in hot soapy water before you disinfect them. After washing, you can disinfect by using boiling water or a disinfectant, following the manufacturer's instructions.	If food or dirt is still on the cloths, this will prevent the disinfection process from being effective, so harmful bacteria might not be killed.

How do you clean re-usable cloths?



DIFFERENT CLOTHS FOR DIFFERENT JOBS

JOBS	THE BEST CLOTH FOR THE JOB	DO YOU DO THIS?	IF NOT, WHAT DO YOU DO?
Holding hot items (e.g. oven trays) – use tea towel or chef's cloth		Yes	
Washing up dishes – use a dish cloth		Yes	
Use disposable cloths or paper towels for the following jobs:		Yes	
Wiping surfaces	de		
Mopping up spills		Yes	
Wiping hands		Yes	
Wiping sides of dishes before serving		Yes	
Drying ingredients		Yes	

WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG

- HOW TO STOP THIS HAPPENING AGAIN
- If you notice dirty cloths in the kitchen, remove them for cleaning immediately or throw them away.
- If you think your staff have used a dirty cloth, wash, disinfect and dry any equipment, work surfaces or utensils it has touched and throw away any food that might have been contaminated.
- Consider using disposable cloths if you are not using them already.
- Increase your supply of disposable/clean cloths.
- Train staff again on this safe method.
- Improve supervision.

Write down what went wrong and what you did about it in your diary.



MANAGE IT	MANAGE IT WHY? HOW DO YOU DO THIS?	
Have a special place in the kitchen for dirty re-usable cloths before they are washed and used again.	This is to prevent them being re-used before they have been washed.	Where do staff put dirty re-usable cloths?
Always keep a good supply of disposable/clean cloths in your kitchen.	Staff are more likely to use clean cloths if plenty are available.	Where do you keep new/clean cloths?

SEPARATING FOODS



Keeping raw and ready-to-eat food separate is essential to prevent harmful bacteria from spreading.

SAFETY POINT	WHY?	HOW DO YOU DO THIS?
Delivery and collection Plan delivery times so that, if possible, raw foods arrive at different times to other foods.	This helps to prevent harmful bacteria spreading from raw meat/poultry to other foods.	When do deliveries come?
If you collect food from shops yourself, make sure it is kept at the correct temperature when you transport it and that raw and ready-to-eat food is kept separate.		
Unload deliveries in a clean, separate area. Remove outer packaging and throw it away.	This will prevent dirty outer packaging or leaks from deliveries from spreading bacteria. Packaging can also contain pests.	
Before you do this make a note of any cooking instructions, labelling or ingredient information, if you need to. Sometimes the information is only on	You may need to check this information later.	
the outer packaging.		Make a note in your diary.
Storage Ideally, store raw and ready-to-eat food in separate fridges, freezers and display units. If they are in the same unit, store raw meat, poultry, fish and eggs below ready-to-eat food. Unwashed fruit and vegetables should also be kept separate	This helps to prevent harmful bacteria spreading from raw food to ready-to-eat food.	How do you make sure raw and ready-to-eat food is stored separately?
from ready-to-eat food and above raw meat. Cover cooked foods and other raw and ready-to-eat food.		
Defrosting Keep foods that are defrosting in the fridge in a covered container, below ready-to-eat food, or in a separate area of the kitchen away from other foods. (See the 'Defrosting' method in the Chilling section.)	When foods are defrosting, the liquid that comes out can contain harmful bacteria, which could spread to other foods.	Where do you defrost foods?



SAFETY POINT	WHY?	HOW DO YOU DO THIS?
Preparation Prepare raw meat/poultry and other foods in different areas. If this is not possible, separate by preparing them at different times and clean and then disinfect thoroughly between tasks. Never use the same chopping board or knives for preparing raw meat/poultry and for ready-to-eat food (unless they have been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected in between).	This helps to prevent harmful bacteria and allergens spreading from one food to another. Harmful bacteria from raw meat/poultry can spread from chopping boards and knives to other foods.	How do you separate raw meat/poultry and other foods during preparation?
Do not wash raw meat or poultry.	Washing meat does not kill bacteria and allergens, but it can splash harmful bacteria around the kitchen contaminating sinks, taps and surfaces and ready-to-eat food.	More information can be found at: food.gov.uk/news-updates/campaigns/campylobacter/actnow
Always use separate equipment, such as vacuum packers, slicers or mincers, for raw and ready-to-eat food.	It is not possible to remove harmful bacteria from complex machinery and these bacteria can spread to food.	
Cooking, e.g. grill, barbecue When you add raw meat make sure it does not touch or drip onto the food already cooking.	Bacteria could spread from the raw meat to the other food and stop it being safe to eat.	How do you keep raw meat separate from food already cooking?

THINK TWICE!

Equipment with moving parts

You should not use the same equipment, such as vacuum packing machines, slicers and mincers, for both raw and ready-to-eat food. These are complex pieces of machinery with lots of moving parts and it is very difficult to clean them sufficiently, so bacteria from raw food could easily be transferred to ready-to-eat food.

To clean this equipment effectively, it needs to be taken apart. (Vacuum packing machines require a specialist to do this.) If you are unsure of what to do, check with your environmental health officer.

WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG

- If you think that ready-to-eat food has not been kept separate from raw food throw away the food.
- If equipment/surfaces/utensils have been touched by raw food, wash, disinfect and dry them to prevent harmful bacteria from spreading.

HOW TO STOP THIS HAPPENING AGAIN

- Train staff again on this safe method.
- Improve staff supervision.
- Re-organise delivery times, storage and food preparation to make it easier to keep food separate.
- Make sure you have enough storage space and it is well organised.

Write down what went wrong and what you did about it in your diary.



FOOD ALLERGIES



It is important to know what to do if you serve a customer who has a food allergy, because these allergies can be life-threatening.

SAFETY POINT	WHY?
If someone asks if a dish contains a certain food, check all the ingredients in the dish (and what they contain), as well as what you use to cook the dish, thicken a sauce and to make a garnish or salad dressing. Never guess.	If someone has a severe allergy, they can react to even a tiny amount of the food they are sensitive to. See Managing Food Allergens Information Safe method in the Management section.
A customer may also give you an allergy 'chef card' listing the foods that they are sensitive to.	You can find out more about allergies at food.gov.uk/business-industry/allergy-guide
See an allergy 'chef card' here: food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/allergy-chef-cards.pdf	
Keep a record of the ingredient information of any ready-made food and drink you use to cook or serve. Separating and labelling ingredients is very important when preparing food to help you identify what is in the meal, easily.	This is so you can check what is in the food.
Give detailed information in the name or description of dishes on the menu, especially if they include the foods listed over the page, e.g. chocolate and almond slice, sesame oil dressing. Remember to update the menu when recipes change.	This allows people with food allergies to spot that dishes contain certain foods.
When you have been asked to prepare a dish that does not contain a certain food, make sure work surfaces and equipment have been thoroughly cleaned first. Make sure staff wash their hands thoroughly before preparing the dish.	This is to prevent small amounts of the food that a person is allergic to getting into the dish accidentally.

HOW DO YOU DO THIS?

How do you check if food does not contain a particular allergen ingredient?

How do you prepare food for someone with a food allergy?



THINK TWICE!

Which ingredients can cause a problem?

You must provide information about allergens to your customers if they are used as ingredients in the food and drink that you provide. You can find further information here: **food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/multimedia/pdfs/publication/loosefoodsleaflet.pdf**.

These are some of the foods people may be allergic to and where they may be found:

Nuts (Namely almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts, pecan nuts, Brazil nuts, pistachio, cashew, Macadamia or Queensland nut).	In sauces, desserts, crackers, bread, ice cream, marzipan, ground almonds, nut oils.
Peanuts	In sauces, cakes, desserts. Don't forget groundnut oil and peanut flour.
Eggs	In cakes, mousses, sauces, pasta, quiche, some meat products. Don't forget foods containing mayonnaise or brushed with egg.
Milk	In yoghurt, cream, cheese, butter, milk powders. Also check for foods glazed with milk.
Fish	In some salad dressings, pizzas, relishes, fish sauce. You might also find fish in some soy and Worcestershire sauces.
Crustaceans	Such as prawns, lobster, scampi, crab, shrimp paste.
Molluscs	These include mussels, whelks, squid, land snails, oyster sauce.
Cereals containing gluten (namely wheat (such as spelt and Khorasan wheat), barley, rye and oats)	Also check foods containing flour, such as bread, pasta, cakes, pastry, meat products, sauces, soups, batter, stock cubes, breadcrumbs, foods dusted with flour.
Celery	This includes celery stalks, leaves and seeds and celeriac. Also look out for celery in salads, soups, celery salt, some meat products.
Lupin	Lupin seeds and flour in some types of bread and pastries.
Mustard	Including liquid mustard, mustard powder and mustard seeds, in salad dressings, marinades, soups, sauces, curries, meat products.
Sesame seeds	In bread, breadsticks, tahini, houmous, sesame oil.
Soya	As tofu or beancurd, soya flour and textured soya protein, in some ice cream, sauces, desserts, meat products, vegetarian products.
Sulphur dioxide (when added and above 10mg/ kg in the finished food and drink)	In meat products, fruit juice drinks, dried fruit and vegetables, wine, beer.

WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG

If you think a customer is having a severe allergic reaction:

- do not move them
- ring 999 and ask for an ambulance with a paramedic straight away
- explain that your customer could have anaphylaxis (pronounced 'anna-fill-axis')
- send someone outside to wait for the ambulance
- if the customer has an adrenalin or Epi pen, help them to get it.

HOW TO STOP THIS HAPPENING AGAIN

- Make sure all your staff understand how important it is to check all the contents of a dish if asked by someone who has a food allergy.
- Make sure you keep accurate and updated ingredient information for all ready-made products and staff know to check it.
- Review the way that staff prepare a dish for someone with a food allergy – are they cleaning effectively first and using clean equipment?
- Improve the descriptions on your menu.
- Train staff again on this safe method.
- Improve supervision.



PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION



It is very important to prevent objects and chemicals getting into food.

SAFETY POINT		WHY?
Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use and store cleaning chemicals. Store cleaning chemicals separately from food and make sure they are clearly labelled.	This is to prevent these chemicals getting into food.	
Keep food covered.	This helps to stop things falling into the food.	
Make sure you control pests effectively. (See the 'Pest control' safe method.)	This is to stop insects, droppings etc. spread of bacteria.	. getting into food, as well as preventing the
Make sure that any chemicals you use to control pests are used and stored in the correct way and clearly labelled.	This is to prevent these chemicals getting into food.	
Always clear and clean as you go and take care to throw away packaging, string etc. as soon as you remove it. (See the 'Clear and clean as you go' safe method in the Cleaning section.)	Keeping surfaces clear and clean will help prevent chemicals and objects getting into food, as well as preventin the spread of bacteria.	
Repair or replace any equipment or utensils that are damaged or have loose parts.	Loose parts may get into food by accident.	
It is a good idea to have a rule of no glass in the kitchen.	This helps to prevent broken glass ge	etting into food.



WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG

HOW TO STOP THIS HAPPENING AGAIN

- If chemicals or objects, such as glass, insects or coloured waterproof dressings get into food, throw the food away.
- If you find pests or signs of pests, take action immediately. (See the 'Pest control' safe method.)
- If you find objects in food that has been delivered, reject the delivery, if possible, and contact your supplier immediately.
- Review how you use and store chemicals in your business.
- Review your pest control arrangements.
- Train staff again on this safe method.
- Improve staff supervision.

Write down what went wrong and what you did about it in your diary.



THINK TWICE!

When you clean work surfaces, make sure that any cleaning chemicals you use are suitable for surfaces touched by food. Check the manufacturer's instructions on how they should be used.

THINK TWICE!

Covering foods

It is important to keep food covered to help protect it from harmful bacteria. This is especially important for cooked food and other ready-to-eat food. Always use containers or bags that have been designed to store food. Suggested food coverings include kitchen foil, cling film, plastic boxes with lids or freezer bags. Keep unused food coverings clean and separate from food.

When you are covering food:

- · Check the manufacturer's instructions to see if the covering is suitable for what you are using it for.
- Always make sure that the food is properly covered.
- Take care not to let the covering fall into foods.
- Never re-use foil, cling film or freezer bags and do not store food in opened tins.
- Make sure that plastic boxes are washed, disinfected and dried between uses.

Avoid re-using food packaging to store food. Often packaging is designed to be used once with a certain food, so it might not be safe to use it again, or to use it with a different food. If food packaging is used in a way that it was not designed for, chemicals could transfer into the food. Instead, use re-usable containers that have been designed to store food.

PEST CONTROL



Effective pest control is essential to keep pests out of your premises and prevent them from spreading harmful bacteria.

SAFETY POINT	WHY?	HOW DO YOU DO THIS?
Check your premises regularly for signs of pests.	Pests carry harmful bacteria.	When do you check for pests? One option is to employ a pest control contractor. See the 'Suppliers and contractors' safe method in the Management section.
Check deliveries thoroughly for signs of pests. Do not accept a delivery if it shows signs of pests such as gnawed packaging or insects, e.g. beetles.	Pests could come into your premises in a delivery.	How do you check deliveries?
Keep external areas tidy and free from weeds. Make sure bins have close-fitting lids and are easy to clean and clean and disinfect regularly.	Weeds and rubbish can attract pests and provide them with food and shelter.	How often do you check external areas?

Rats and mice Small footprints in dust, droppings, holes in walls and doors, nests, gnawed goods or packaging, grease or smear marks, urine stains on food packaging Flies and flying insects e.g. moths Bodies of insects, live insects, webbing, nests, droning or buzzing, maggots



TYPE	SIGNS OF PESTS	
Cockroaches		Eggs and egg cases, moulted 'skins', the insects themselves, droppings
Ants		Small piles of sand or soil, the insects themselves, flying ants on hot days
Birds		Feathers, droppings, nests, noise, the birds themselves
Beetles and weevils		Moving insects, particularly in dry food, small maggots

WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG

- **HOW TO STOP THIS HAPPENING AGAIN** If you see signs of a pest infestation, call a pest contractor Make your pest checks more frequent.
- immediately. Write the contact details for your pest contractor on the Contacts list in the diary.
- If you think any equipment, surfaces or utensils have been touched by pests, they should be washed, disinfected and dried to stop harmful bacteria from spreading.
- If you think food has been touched by pests in any way, throw it away.
- Improve staff training on recognising signs of pests and encourage them to report problems immediately.
- If you have persistent problems with pests, consider employing a pest contractor, if you do not have one already.

Write down what went wrong and what you did about it in your diary.



THINK TWICE!

Never let pest control bait/chemicals, including sprays, come into contact with food, packaging, equipment or surfaces, because they are likely to be poisonous to people.

MANAGE IT

- Make sure no food or dirty plates etc. are left out at night these are a source of food for pests.
- Make sure that checks for pests are carried out regularly.
- Put reminders of when to check for pests in your diary.
- If you have a pest contractor, keep a record of their contact details and visits in your diary, as well as any feedback or action points they recommend. Make a note of when you have carried these out.

MAINTENANCE



Effective maintenance is essential to allow you to clean properly and keep pests out.

SAFETY POINT	\rightarrow	WHY?
Repair structural damage as soon as it happens e.g. damp/chipped plaster, broken tiles, holes in walls or windows.	Structural damage can make your premises harder to clean. It can attract pests, dirt and allows harmful bacteria to collect there.	20.8
Check extractor fans and filters regularly to make sure they are working properly and are free from grease and dirt.	This is to make sure the fans and filte	ers can do their job properly.
Replace chopping boards that are scratched, pitted or scored.	Dirt and harmful bacteria can collect in any areas where the board is not smooth.	
Repair or replace any equipment or utensils that are damaged or have loose parts.	Dirt and harmful bacteria can collect in damaged equipment/utensils. Loose parts may fall into food.	× ×
Throw away any cracked or chipped dishes and other tableware.	Dirt and harmful bacteria can collect in cracks or chips.	8
Make sure your cooking, hot holding and chilling equipment is well maintained and working properly.	If it does not work properly, food may	not be kept safe.
Temperature probes should be checked regularly to make sure their readings are accurate.	If your probe is not accurate, then it will not give a reliable measure of whether food is at a safe temperature (See the 'Prove it' safe method in the Management section.)	



WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG

- If you think that equipment might not be working properly, check it straight away. Do not wait until it has broken down.
 Check that staff are using the equipment properly.
- Look at the manufacturer's instructions to see if there is a troubleshooting section.
- Contact the equipment manufacturer or your maintenance contractor, if you have one.
- Use alternative equipment until the fault has been corrected.

HOW TO STOP THIS HAPPENING AGAIN

- Make your maintenance checks more frequent.
- Encourage staff to report any structural damage or problems with equipment, so you know about problems early.
- Train staff again on this safe method.
- Improve staff supervision.

Write down what went wrong and what you did about it in your diary.



write down what went wrong and what you did adout it in your diary.

MANAGE IT	HOW DO YOU DO THIS?
 Check your premises regularly for any structural damage or problems with equipment. Put problems right as soon as possible, before they get worse or affect food safety. Make a note in your diary of what you do. Put reminders in your diary of maintenance checks and make a note of any repairs you make. 	Do you do this? Yes Write any details here:



CLEANING

Effective cleaning is essential to get rid of harmful bacteria and allergens to stop them spreading to food.



Effective cleaning is essential to get rid of harmful bacteria and allergens to stop them spreading to food.

This section tells you about handwashing, cleaning effectively, how to 'clear and clean as you go' and developing a cleaning schedule.

HANDWASHING



Effective handwashing is essential to help prevent bacteria spreading to food.

Make sure that all staff who work with food wash their hands properly before handling or preparing food. Harmful bacteria can spread very easily from people's hands to food, work surfaces, equipment etc. Effective handwashing helps to prevent this. Following the steps below will make sure hands are washed properly.

WASHING HANDS EFFECTIVELY

Step 1:

Wet your hands thoroughly under warm running water and squirt liquid soap onto your palm.



Step 2:

Rub your hands together palm to palm to make a lather.



Step 3:

Rub the palm of one hand along the back of the other and along the fingers. Repeat with the other hand.



Step 4:

Put your palms together with fingers interlocked and rub in between each of the fingers thoroughly.



Step 5:

Rub around your thumbs on each hand and then rub the fingertips of each hand against your palms.



Step 6:

Rinse off the soap with clean water and dry your hands thoroughly on a disposable towel. Turn off the tap with the towel and then throw the towel away.



CHECK IT				
For hands to be washed properly, you need warm running water, liquid soap and preferably disposable towels.	Do you use liquid soap? Yes No If no, what do you use?			
	Do you use disposable towels?			
	Yes No If no, what do you use?			



WHEN TO WASH YOUR HANDS

Before touching or handling any food, especially ready-to-eat food and after touching raw meat, poultry, fish, eggs or unwashed vegetables



When entering the kitchen e.g. after a break or going to the toilet.



After touching or emptying bins.



After any cleaning.



After touching a cut or changing a dressing.



After touching items such as phones, light switches, door handles, cash registers and money.



THINK TWICE!

If you use disposable gloves in your business, they should never be used as an alternative to effective handwashing.

When using disposable gloves make sure you:

- · Wash your hands thoroughly before putting them on and after taking them off.
- Always change them regularly, especially between handling raw food and ready-to-eat food.
- Throw them away after use or if damaged.

Hygienic hand rubs and gels can be useful when used as an additional precaution, but should **never** be used as a replacement for effective handwashing.

WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG

HOW TO STOP THIS HAPPENING AGAIN

- If you think a member of staff has not washed their hands, make sure they wash them straight away and emphasise how important it is to wash their hands when working with food.
- Make sure that hand basins are convenient with plenty of soap and disposable towels.
- Train staff again on this safe method.
- Improve staff supervision.

CLEANING EFFECTIVELY



Effective cleaning is essential to get rid of harmful bacteria and stop them spreading.

SAFETY POINT	WHY?
Cleaning needs to be carried out in two stages. First use a cleaning product to remove visible dirt from surfaces and equipment, and rinse. Then disinfect them using the correct dilution and contact time for the disinfectant, after rinse with fresh clean water if required.	Chemical disinfectants only work if surfaces have been thoroughly cleaned first to remove grease and other dirt.
Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use cleaning chemicals. Disinfectants and sanitisers should meet BS EN standards. You can find out more in the 'cleaning terms' in the 'Your cleaning schedule' safe method.	This is important to make sure that chemicals work effectively.
Wash work surfaces and equipment thoroughly between tasks, follow the manufacturer's cleaning instructions if there are any. Wash and then disinfect them after preparing raw food.	This will help prevent dirt and bacteria spreading onto other equipment.

HIGH-PRIORITY CLEANING

Regularly wash/wipe and disinfect all the items people touch frequently, such as work surfaces, sinks, taps, door handles, switches, can openers, cash registers, telephones and scales.

Where possible, allow these to dry naturally at the end of each day/shift.

This will help prevent dirt and bacteria being spread to people's hands and then to food or other areas.

Drying naturally helps prevent bacteria being spread back to these items on a towel/cloth used for drying.



Wash and disinfect fridges regularly at a time when they do not contain much food. Transfer food to another fridge or a safe cold area and keep it covered.

To clean a fridge thoroughly, you should take out all the food and keep it cold somewhere else. If food is left out at room temperature, bacteria could grow.



Ideally use a dishwasher. Do not overload the dishwasher and make sure it is maintained and serviced regularly.

If you do not have a dishwasher, wash plates, equipment etc. in hot soapy water using diluted detergent. Remove grease and any food and dirt. Then immerse them in very hot, clean water. Leave to air dry, or dry with a clean disposable cloth.

Dishwashers wash items thoroughly at a high temperature so this is a good way to clean equipment and kill bacteria (disinfect) and remove allergens. If you overload the dishwasher, it may not wash effectively.





OTHER CLEANING

SAFETY POINT

Items that do not touch food are not as high a priority but they should still be cleaned effectively. Examples include dry storage areas and floors.

For equipment or areas that are hard to clean, you may wish to employ a contract cleaner.

This prevents dirt and bacteria building up in the kitchen. It also removes any food which has fallen

on the floor, which can attract pests e.g. mice and cockroaches.

Contract cleaners have special equipment and experience of more difficult cleaning.



THINK TWICE!

Effective cleaning needs to be carried out in two stages. Disinfectants will only work on clean surfaces. Always use a cleaning product to remove visible dirt and grease before disinfecting. Always check the manufacturer's instructions for the correct dilution and contact time for disinfectants or sanitisers.

When you are cleaning, remember to move food out of the way, or cover it. This is to prevent dirt, bacteria or cleaning chemicals from getting onto food.

MANAGE IT	WHY?	HOW DO YOU DO THIS?
Fill out the cleaning schedule in the diary to show how you manage cleaning in your business. (See the 'Your cleaning schedule' safe method.)	This is to make sure that staff know what to clean, when and how.	Have you completed the cleaning schedule from the diary? Yes No If no, are you using another cleaning schedule? Yes No
Make sure you always have a good supply of cleaning chemicals, materials and equipment. It can be helpful to put a reminder in your diary of when you should buy more.	Staff are more likely to clean properly if the right cleaning chemicals, materials and equipment are available.	Do you make sure you have a good supply of cleaning products? Yes No

WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG	HOW TO STOP THIS HAPPENING AGAIN
If you find that any item in your kitchen is not properly clean, wash and disinfect it and allow it to dry.	Review your cleaning schedule, including how you clean and how often.
	Make sure your cleaning chemicals, materials and equipment are suitable for the tasks you use them for and are being used correctly.
	Train staff again on this safe method.
	Improve staff supervision.

Write down what went wrong and what you did about it in your diary.



CLEAR AND CLEAN AS YOU GO



Keeping your kitchen clear and clean makes it safer.

SAFETY POINT	$\overline{}$	WHY?
Take off outer packaging from food and throw it away before you bring food into the kitchen or storeroom.	Outer packaging could have touched dirty floors etc. when it has been stored or transported before.	
Take extra care with how you throw away packaging and food waste from raw food. If packaging from raw food touches work surfaces make sure you wash and then disinfect them afterwards.	Packaging and food waste from these foods are more likely to spread harmful bacteria and allergens to food and surfaces.	
Keep your kitchen free from clutter and rubbish. Clear away dirty kitchen equipment as soon as possible.	Work surfaces are easier to keep clean when they are not cluttered. It is also important to clear away used equipment to prevent bacteria and allergens spreading from it to surfaces or food.	
Keep sinks clear and clean them regularly.	This stops dirt building up and helps from spreading.	prevent bacteria and allergens
Wash or wipe away spills as soon as they happen. Clean and then disinfect work surfaces after wiping up spills from raw food.	This stops dirt building up and helps prevent bacteria and allergens from spreading.	
Wash work surfaces thoroughly between tasks. Use a new cloth (or one that has been washed and disinfected) to clean work surfaces before preparing ready-to-eat food.	This will help prevent dirt and bacteria and allergens spreading onto other foods from the surface. A dirty cloth could spread bacteria and allergens to the surface.	



MANAGE IT
'Clear and clean as you go' is the recommended way of keeping your kitchen clean as you work. How do you do this?

MANAGING FOOD WASTE

Managing food waste can help prevent fat, oils and grease from blocking your sinks, pipes and drains. Check with your environmental health department if there are specific requirements in your area.

SAFETY POINT	WHY?	HOW DO YOU DO THIS?
Scrape food waste into the bin before washing. Ideally, use a separate bin just for food waste.	This will help prevent food blocking pipes and drains at your business.	Do you remove left-over food from plates before washing? Yes No Do you have a bin just for food waste? Yes No
Use a strainer over the plughole to stop food going down the sink.	This will help stop food from blocking your sinks, pipes and drains.	Do you use strainers in your sinks? Yes No
Food waste should be stored in a specific place, away from food preparation, before it is collected. This area should be cleaned and disinfected regularly.	Food waste can contaminate food preparation areas with bacteria and allergens. Regular collection of waste is very important. If left too long, waste can smell, attract pests and can be a risk to food safety.	Do you have a specific place for food waste? Yes No Do you clean and disinfect this area regularly? Yes No How often is food waste collected at your business?

WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG

HOW TO STOP THIS HAPPENING AGAIN

- If you find that work surfaces or equipment are not properly clean, wash, disinfect and dry them before using them to prepare food.
- If you find any packaging or waste lying around, throw it away immediately and clean and then disinfect the work surface thoroughly.
- If sinks, pipes or drains get blocked check food is being scraped into bins before washing and that strainers are being used.
- Review your clearing and cleaning practices.
- Review staffing levels.
- Consider changing the order/timing of tasks to make it easier to keep surfaces clear and clean.
- Train staff again on this safe method.
- Improve staff supervision.

Write down what went wrong and what you did about it in your diary.



YOUR CLEANING SCHEDULE



A cleaning schedule is a useful tool to help you clean effectively in your business.

WHAT TO DO

You can use the cleaning schedule supplied in the diary to write down how you clean in your business. This safe method should help you do this.

Alternatively, you may already have a cleaning schedule. If so, you can continue to use it, but it is a good idea to look at this safe method and review your schedule to make sure that it covers the right things.

It is important to write down how you do your cleaning, so you can show what you do. It is also useful for staff to be able to check how they should clean things, so you may wish to put your cleaning schedule on the wall.

SAFETY POINT **HOW DO YOU DO THIS?** Walk through your premises and make You may find it helpful to go through the following examples of items that a list of everything that needs cleaning. need cleaning and disinfecting: This will depend on what you do in your Items that come into contact with food business. · Work surfaces and chopping boards Some items should be cleaned more · Equipment e.g. knives frequently than others and some should also be disinfected. You do not need to · Fridges and freezers disinfect everything - concentrate on • Equipment with moving parts e.g. food mixers, slicers, vacuum packing those items that will be touched by food machines and processors and frequently touched items such as • Sinks and soap dispensers door handles. · Re-usable cloths and work clothes You will also need to clean and then disinfect surfaces or items that have · Ice machines been touched by raw food, or leaks Frequently touched items or spills from these. · Rubbish bins, broom and mop handles See the next page of this safe method. • Door handles, taps, switches, controls, cash registers and scales · Can openers, telephones Other items • Floors, walls, ceilings · Storage areas · Waste areas and drains Microwaves, ovens, dishwashers, hot-holding and display cabinets · Self-service and staff areas For each item, or group of items, write Include details on: down what you do on your cleaning • How you clean the item(s) schedule. · What chemicals you use and how to use them · What equipment you use • How often you clean the item(s) Review your schedule regularly and check Train staff on the cleaning schedule, so they know what they have to do, that all cleaning is being done properly. and when. Supervise cleaning.



EXAMPLE OF A CLEANING SCHEDULE

Fill in details of all the items you clean

Item	Fred	3			ıg	Precautions e.g. wear gloves or	Method of cleaning	
	After use	Every shift	Daily	Weekly	Other	goggles		
Work surface	X					Wear gloves	 Remove any obvious food and dirt. Wash the surface with hot soapy water (detergent diluted according to manufacturer's instructions) to remove grease and any other food and dirt. Rinse with clean water to remove the detergent and loosened food and dirt. Apply a disinfectant. Make sure you leave it on for the contact time recommended by the manufacturer. Rinse with clean water to remove the disinfectant. Leave to dry naturally or use a clean disposable cloth. 	
Fridge				x		Wear gloves	 Remove all food and store it in a cool place, ideally another fridge or cool box. Remove shelves and compartments from the fridge and wash them in hot soapy water and then disinfect. Allow to dry naturally or use a clean or disposable cloth. Wash and then disinfect all surfaces of fridge with hot soapy water and dry with a clean or disposable cloth. Replace shelves and compartments, and put the food back in the fridge. Wash and disinfect the outside including the handles and door seals. 	
Wok range			X			Wear gloves	 Turn off the burners. Drain the water from the top of the range. Remove the wok rings and wash in hot soapy water (detergent diluted to manufacturer's instructions), then rinse. Clear away any spilled food on the top and in the water channel. Clean off grease using hot soapy water. Pull out and clean trays, empty the drainage basket and wash in hot soapy water. 	

CLEANING TERMS

Detergent

A chemical (e.g. washing-up liquid) used to remove grease, dirt and food. Used for general cleaning.

Disinfectant

A chemical which kills bacteria. Check that surfaces are clean of grease, dirt and food before you use a disinfectant.

Sanitiser

A two-in-one product that acts as a detergent and a disinfectant. If you use a sanitiser, make sure you use it first to clean and remove grease, and then again to disinfect.

BS EN standards

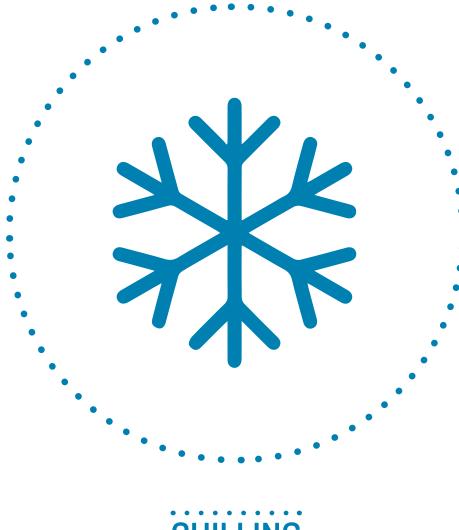
Disinfectants and sanitisers should meet either BS EN 13697 or BS EN 1276 standards.

Dilution rate

Most cleaning chemicals are concentrated, so you need to add water to dilute them before they can be used. It is important to follow the manufacturer's instructions on how much water to use with the chemical. This is the 'dilution rate'. If you add too much or too little water, then the cleaning chemical might not work effectively.

Contact time

This is how long a cleaning chemical needs to be left on the item you are cleaning. It is important to follow the manufacturer's instructions on contact time for the chemical to work effectively.



CHILLING

Chilling food properly helps to stop harmful bacteria from growing.



Chilling food properly helps to stop harmful bacteria from growing.

Some foods need to be kept chilled to keep them safe, such as sandwiches, cooked food, salad ingredients, soft cheeses, cooked meats, cream and desserts, food with a 'use by' date and food that says 'keep refrigerated' on the label.

This section tells you about storing and displaying chilled food, chilling down hot food, freezing and defrosting.

CHILLED STORAGE AND DISPLAYING CHILLED FOOD



Harmful bacteria can grow in food that is not chilled properly.

SAFETY POINT	WHY?	HOW DO YO	U DO THIS?
Certain foods need to be kept chilled to keep them safe, for example: • food with a 'use by' date • food that says 'keep refrigerated' on the label • food you have cooked and will not serve immediately • ready-to-eat food such as salads, cooked meats, sandwiches and desserts.	If these types of food are not kept cold enough harmful bacteria could grow.	Do you check regularly that these types of food are kept chilled? Yes	If not, what do you do?
Make sure that you do not use food after its 'use by' date. For dishes you have prepared or cooked, it is a good idea to use stickers, or another method of labelling, to keep track of when food should be used or thrown away. If you are not sure how long to keep food, ask your environmental health officer for advice.	Food with 'use by' dates, cooked dishes and other ready-to-eat food have a limited shelf life. If you keep them too long they might not be safe to eat.	To the later of th	How do you keep track of when food should be used or thrown away?
Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use fridges and chilled display equipment.	It is important to use equipment properly to make sure food is kept cold enough.	Do you follow the manufacturer's instructions for using your: Fridge? Chilled display unit?	If not, what do you do?
 Pre-cool the display unit before you put chilled food in it. Only display as much food as you think you will need. Display food for the shortest time possible. You could also: use a 'dummy' portion for display (which will not be eaten) use photographs to show customers what the food looks like. 	It is important to keep chilled food cold while it is on display to prevent harmful bacteria from growing in the food.		What do you do to make sure chilled food is displayed safely?



CHECK IT

It is recommended that fridges and chilled display equipment should be set at 5°C or below. This is to make sure that chilled food is kept at 8°C or below.

This is a legal requirement in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and recommended in Scotland.

You should check the temperature of your chilling equipment at least once a day starting with your opening checks (see the 'Opening and closing checks' safe method in the Management section).

HOW DO YOU DO THIS?

Some equipment will have a digital display or dial to show what temperature it is set at. You can use this to check the temperature of your equipment.

If you do this, you should check regularly that the temperature shown on the display/dial is accurate using a fridge thermometer.

How do you check the temperature of chilling equipment?

Fridge: Digital display

Dial thermometer

Chilled display unit:

Digital display

Dial thermometer

If you do not do this, what do you do?

THINK TWICE!

Chilled food must be kept at 8°C or below, except for certain exceptions.

When you display cold food, e.g. on a buffet, you should use suitable chilled display equipment to keep it at 8°C or below. If this is not possible, you can display food out of chilled storage for up to four hours, but you can only do this once. Make sure you know how long food has been on display or kept out, and check its temperature regularly.

Food that has not been used within four hours can be put back in the fridge and kept at 8°C or below until it is used. If it has been out for more than four hours it should be thrown away.

If you do take food out of chilled storage to display it, remember not to mix new food with the food that is already on display. This could lead to the older food being left out for too long.

PROVE IT

If you would like extra reassurance that your chilling equipment is working effectively, you can use a temperature probe to check food as a one-off test to prove that your method keeps food at a safe temperature. (See the 'Prove it' safe method in the Management section for advice on using probes safely.)

WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG

- If your fridge or display equipment breaks down, use other equipment, or move the food to a cold area. If you cannot do this, or you do not know how long the equipment has been broken down, contact the environmental health officer at your local authority for advice.
- If food on display has not been kept chilled for more than four hours, throw it away.

Remember that some foods need extra care e.g. rice. See the safe method 'Foods that need extra care' in the Cooking section.

HOW TO STOP THIS HAPPENING AGAIN

- Review your chilled display method and see if you can make it safer (using the front of this sheet).
- Train staff again on this safe method.
- Improve staff supervision.
- If you have frequent problems with your chilling equipment, consider whether it is suitable for your business. Generally, commercial equipment will be more suitable for catering.



CHILLING DOWN HOT FOOD

SAFETY POINT



WHY?

Harmful bacteria can grow in food that is not chilled down as quickly as possible.

If you have cooked food that you will n chill it down as quickly as possible and		Harmful bacteria can grow in food that is le	eft to chill slowly.
Avoid cooking large quantities of food need to.	in advance, unless you	Large quantities of food are more difficult quickly, especially solid food.	to chill down
OPTIONS FOR CHILLING DOWN FOOD (YOU CAN USE ONE OR MORE OF THESE)		WHY?	TICK IF YOU DO THIS
Divide food into smaller portions.	Smaller amounts of food chill down more quickly.		
Cut joints of meat in half.	Smaller pieces of meat will cool more quickly.		
Cover pans of hot food and move them to a colder area e.g. a storage room, or stand them in cold water. You can also use ice to speed up chilling.	This will make the contents of the pans chill more quickly.		
Stir food regularly while it is chilling down.	Stirring helps food chill more evenly.		
Cover hot food and move it to a colder area (e.g. a larder).	Food will chill more quickly in a colder place.	9 2	
Spread food out on a tray e.g. rice.	Spreading the food out will help it cool more quickly.		



OPTIONS FOR CHILLING DOWN FOOD (YOU CAN USE ONE OR MORE OF THESE)	WHY?	TICK IF YOU DO THIS
If you have a 'cool' setting on your oven, use it to chill down food.	Some ovens have a 'cool' setting, which can help to chill down food by increasing the air flow around it. (The oven should be cool first.)	
Use a blast chiller to chill down food.	A blast chiller is specially designed to chill down hot foods quickly and safely.	
If you have another method of chilling down hot food, e.g. putting pasta under cold running water, write the details here:		

PROVE IT

If you would like to compare different chilling options, try them out with the same food. You will only need to do this once.

When you have just cooked the food, use a probe to test its temperature. (See the 'Prove it' method in the Management section for advice on using probes safely.) Then test the temperature again at regular intervals to find out how fast the food is being chilled down. Remember to use a clean probe each time you check the food.

Repeat the process with different chilling options to find out which is most effective.

WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG

• If food has not been chilled down safely, re-cook it, if appropriate, or throw it away.

Remember that some foods need extra care e.g. rice. See the safe method 'Foods that need extra care' in the Cooking section.

HOW TO STOP THIS HAPPENING AGAIN

- Review your chilling methods to make sure they are working properly. If appropriate, try out different methods and choose the one that best meets your needs.
- Make sure you always allow enough time and make portions small enough.
- Train staff again on this safe method.
- Improve staff supervision.
- If you chill down lots of hot food in your business you may wish to consider using a blast chiller.

Write down what went wrong and what you did about it in your diary.



DEFROSTING



Harmful bacteria can grow in food that is not defrosted properly.

SAFETY POINT	WHY?	HOW DO YOU DO THIS?
Food should be thoroughly defrosted before cooking (unless the manufacturer's instructions tell you to cook from frozen or you have a proven safe method).	If food is still frozen or partially frozen, it will take longer to cook. The outside of the food could be cooked, but the centre might not be, which means it could contain harmful bacteria.	Do you check food is thoroughly defrosted before cooking? Yes If not, what do you do?
OPTIONS FOR DEFROSTING FO	OD	
Ideally, plan ahead to leave enough time and space to defrost small amounts of food in the fridge.	Putting food in the fridge will keep it at a safe temperature while it is defrosting.	Do you use this method? Yes How much time do you allow for defrosting?
2. If you cannot defrost food in the fridge, you could put it in a container and then place it under cold running water.	Cold water will help to speed up defrosting without allowing the outside of the food to get too warm.	Do you use this method? Yes Which foods do you defrost in this way?
3. Raw meat and poultry (including large joints and whole birds), should not be defrosted under cold running water unless they are in a sealed container. For more information: food.gov.uk/news-updates/campaigns/campylobacter/actnow	Harmful bacteria could be spread, contaminating sinks, taps and surfaces.	How do you defrost raw meat and poultry?
4. If you use the sink to defrost some foods, make sure the sink is clean and empty. The sink should be cleaned and then disinfected after being used for defrosting.	Cold water will help speed up defrosting.	Do you use this method? Yes Which foods do you defrost in this way?



SAFETY POINTS	WHY?	HOW DO YOU DO THIS
5. Or you could defrost food in the microwave on the 'defrost' setting.	This is a fast way to defrost food.	Do you use this method? Yes Which foods do you defrost in this way?
6. If necessary you could defrost food at room temperature. Follow the manufacturer's defrosting instructions. Food should be left out at room temperature for the shortest time possible. Ideally, defrost these foods in the fridge.	Foods will defrost quite quickly at room temperature, but harmful bacteria could grow in food if it gets too warm while defrosting.	Do you use this method? Yes Which foods do you defrost in this way?
7. If you have another method of defrosting	, write the details here:	Which foods do you defrost in this way?

THINK TWICE!

Keep meat/poultry separate from other food when it is defrosting, to prevent cross-contamination. Once food has been defrosted you should use it immediately (within one day).

CHECK IT WHY? **HOW DO YOU DO THIS?** The outside When you Check for ice crystals in the think food has food using your hand or a skewer. may look defrosted, it is defrosted but Do you use this check? Yes important the inside could to check to still be frozen. make sure. With birds, check the joints are flexible. Do you use this check? Yes If you use another check, write the details here:

WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG

- If food has not fully defrosted, continue to defrost the food until no ice crystals are left. Test again before cooking or reheating.
- Speed up the defrosting process e.g. by using cold water or a microwave (see the front of this sheet).
- Use an alternative menu item. If you do not have time to defrost for longer, replace the dish with a similar dish that is ready to serve.

HOW TO STOP THIS HAPPENING AGAIN

- Change your defrosting method and make it safer, e.g. defrost smaller amounts.
- Make sure you allow enough time to defrost.
- Train staff again on this safe method.
- Improve staff supervision.
- If you defrost lots of food in your business you may wish to consider creating extra fridge space or using a special defrosting cabinet.



FREEZING



It is important to take care when freezing food and handle frozen food safely.

SAFETY POINT	WHY?	HOW DO YOU DO THIS?
Put frozen food in the freezer as soon as it is delivered.	If frozen food starts to defrost, harmful bacteria could grow.	Is frozen food put in the freezer as soon as it is delivered? Yes No
If you are freezing fresh food, freeze it as soon as it has been delivered or prepared. Freeze hot food as soon as it has been properly chilled down.	The longer you wait before freezing food, the greater the chance of harmful bacteria growing. (See the 'Chilling down hot food' method.)	Is fresh and cooked food put in the freezer as soon as it has been delivered, prepared, or chilled down? Yes No
Divide food into smaller portions and put it in containers or freezer bags before freezing.	Smaller portions will freeze (and defrost) more quickly. The centre of larger portions takes longer to freeze, allowing harmful bacteria to grow. Using containers and freezer bags prevents cross-contamination.	Is food divided into smaller portions to help it freeze better? Yes No Is frozen food stored in containers or freezer bags? Yes No

HOW DO YOU DO THIS?

If you answered 'No' to any of the above questions, write down what you do:



THINK TWICE!

When you freeze food, make a note (e.g. on a sticker) of the date it is frozen and the date when it is removed for defrosting, including the day, month and year.

If you freeze food that has a 'use by' date, (for using later) make sure you freeze it before the use by date is past, and it is important that you clearly note the date you are freezing it.

Once food has been defrosted you should use it immediately (within one day). See the 'Prove it' in the Management section.

WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG

If you find that your freezer is not working properly, you should do the following things:

- Food that is still frozen (i.e. hard and icy) should be moved to an alternative freezer straight away. If there is no alternative freezer, defrost food using the 'Defrosting' safe method.
- Food that has begun to defrost (i.e. starting to get soft and/or with liquid coming out of it) should be moved to a suitable place to continue defrosting using the 'Defrosting' safe method.
- Fully defrosted food (i.e. soft and warm) should be cooked, if appropriate (e.g. raw meat and poultry), until it is piping hot all the way through. After cooking, use the food immediately or chill or freeze it safely straight away. If this is not possible, throw it away.
- Food that has to be kept frozen (e.g. ice cream) cannot be re-frozen once it has started to defrost. You will have to use it immediately or throw it away.

Remember, some foods need extra care. See the 'Foods that need extra care' safe method in the Cooking section.

HOW TO STOP THIS HAPPENING AGAIN

- Get your freezer mended or buy a new one.
- Have freezers serviced regularly and check that they are working properly as part of your opening checks.
- Re-organise freezers so there is more space and they are kept closed as much as possible.
- Train staff again on this safe method.
- Increase staff supervision.

Write down what went wrong and what you did about it in your diary.





COOKING

It is essential to cook food properly to kill any harmful bacteria. If it is not cooked properly, it might not be safe for your customers to eat.



It is essential to cook food properly to kill any harmful bacteria. If it is not cooked properly, it might not be safe for your customers to eat.

It is also very important to handle ready-to-eat food carefully to protect it from harmful bacteria. This is because it will not be cooked or reheated before serving.

Do not forget that cooking does not remove allergens from food, so you need to handle food that contains allergens carefully.

This section includes information on cooking safely, foods that need extra care, reheating, hot holding and ready-to-eat food.

COOKING SAFELY

Thorough cooking kills harmful bacteria.



SAFETY POINT	WHY?
Follow the manufacturer's cooking instructions for food products, where appropriate.	The manufacturer has tried and tested safe cooking methods specifically for its products.
Preheat equipment such as steamers and deep-fat fryers before cooking.	If you use equipment before it has preheated, food will take longer to cook. This means that recommended cooking times in recipes or manufacturer's instructions might not be long enough.
Make sure liquid dishes, e.g. soups, are boiling.	This is to make sure the food is hot enough to cook it thoroughly and kill bacteria.
	Remember to handle stock carefully – see the safe method on 'Foods that need extra care'.
Cut meat/poultry into pieces of a similar size before cooking.	This is to make sure that all the pieces of meat / poultry take the same amount of time to cook.
If you serve beef or lamb rare (whole cuts such as steaks), make sure all of the outside surfaces are fully cooked, e.g. by sealing in a pan.	This will kill harmful bacteria on the surface of the meat. Pork and rolled joints should not be served rare.



CHECK IT – USE THESE CHECKS TO TELL IF FOOD IS PROPERLY COOKED.





The largest piece of meat or poultry in stir-fries and stews should be very hot (steaming) all the way through with no pink or red in them.



Check that liquid dishes boil rapidly when you stir them.



Check that roast pork and duck is cooked all the way through with no pink or red in the centre.



Check that all the outside surfaces of whole cuts of meat (beef or lamb) are fully cooked.







Check that combination dishes, such as spring rolls, pork balls and dim sum, are very hot (steaming) all the way through.

WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG

HOW TO STOP THIS HAPPENING AGAIN

- Cook the food for longer.
- Speed up the cooking process, for example by dividing the food into smaller quantities, or using different equipment.
- Review your cooking method. You might need to increase the time or temperature, or use different equipment.
- Repair or replace equipment if it is not working properly.
- Train staff again on this safe method.
- Improve staff supervision.

Write down what went wrong and what you did about it in your diary.



FOODS THAT NEED EXTRA CARE



Some foods need to be treated with extra care to make sure they are safe to eat.

Remember that raw food is often the main source of bacteria in the kitchen. Follow the advice in the 'Cooking safely' safe method on how to cook these foods. You should also take care with the following foods.

SAFETY POINT

WHY?

HOW DO YOU DO THIS?

Stock

Ideally, only make enough stock for one day. If you have any leftover stock, chill it down as quickly as possible and then put it in the fridge. See the 'Chilling down hot food' safe method in the Chilling section.

If you need to reheat chilled stock, make sure it is very hot (steaming) all the way through. Do not reheat more than once. Harmful bacteria can grow in stock that is chilled down too slowly or left out at room temperature.



How do you chill down leftover stock?

Shellfish

Make sure you buy shellfish from a reputable supplier.

Keep the packaging for 60 days, after opening.

Some people are allergic to certain shellfish. So make sure they are clearly listed on your menu or ingredients information. See the Food Allergies Safe method for further information.

Shellfish such as prawns and scallops will change in colour and texture when they are cooked.

For example, prawns turn from blue-grey to pink and scallops become milky white and firm.

Langoustines (also called scampi or Dublin Bay prawns) are pink when raw and the flesh becomes firm and pinkwhite when they are cooked.

If you use ready-cooked (pink) prawns, serve them cold or reheat them until they are piping hot all the way through.

If you do not use a reputable supplier, you cannot be confident that shellfish have been caught and handled safely.

It is a legal requirement to keep labels for 60 days to trace suppliers, if needed.

You must provide information about allergens to your customers if you use them as ingredients in food you make.

List the types of shellfish you serve or use as an ingredient.







SAFETY POINT WHY? **HOW DO YOU DO THIS?** Shellfish continued Crabs, crayfish, lobster and scallops Some parts of these shellfish cannot If you prepare crabs, crayfish, lobster and should be prepared by someone with be eaten and some are poisonous, so scallops, are these prepared by someone specialist knowledge. it is important to know how to remove with specialist knowledge? these parts safely. Yes If not, what do you do? If the shell is damaged or open before Before cooking mussels and clams, cooking, the shellfish might not be throw away any with open or safe to eat. damaged shells. To check that a mussel or clam is cooked, make sure the shell is open and that the mussel or clam has shrunk inside the shell. If the shell has not opened during cooking, throw it away. Fish Certain types of fish, such as Make sure you buy fish from mackerel, tuna, anchovies and a reputable supplier. herrings, can cause food poisoning If you buy fresh fish make sure you if not kept at the correct temperature. store it between 0°C and 4°C. If you buy frozen fish then keep it frozen until you are ready to use it. Some people are allergic to fish. You must provide information about So make sure any fish or food that allergens to your customers if you use contains fish as an ingredient is them as ingredients in food you make. clearly listed on your menus or ingredients information. See the Food Allergies Safe method for further information.

THINK TWICE!

Some people may be sensitive to monosodium glutamate (MSG). This is an additive used to bring out the flavour in foods. It is a good idea to be aware of all of the dishes on your menu that contain MSG, so you will be able to give customers accurate information. Remember that there can be MSG in ingredients such as soy sauce, as well as MSG added to the final dish.

READY-TO-EAT FOOD



It is important to handle ready-to-eat food safely to protect it from harmful bacteria and allergens.

Ready-to-eat food is food that will not be cooked or reheated before serving. This includes salad ingredients, garnishes, cold sauces, desserts, fruit and food cooked in advance advance to serve cold.

SAFETY POINT	WHY?	HOW DO YOU DO THIS?
 When preparing and handling food you should: keep ready-to-eat food completely separate from raw meat/poultry, fish, eggs and unwashed vegetables make sure work surfaces, chopping boards, knives etc. are clean (and disinfected if you have prepared raw food) Ideally, use separate chopping boards and utensils for ready-to-eat food. keep ready-to-eat food covered at all times during preparation and storage 	This protects food from harmful bacteria and allergens. This is especially important for ready-to-eat food because they will not be cooked or reheated before serving. It also helps keep allergens from spreading.	List the types of ready-to-eat food you use:
Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to store and prepare the food, if these are available.	The manufacturer's instructions are designed to keep the food safe.	Are you confident that you do this for all ready-to-eat food where instructions are available? Yes
 When preparing fruit, vegetables and salad ingredients: peel, trim, or remove the outer parts, as appropriate wash them thoroughly by rubbing vigorously in a bowl of clean water wash the cleanest ones first Wash your hands before and after handling fruit and vegetables. If you have prepared salad ingredients or vegetables that have dirt or soil on the outside, clean and disinfect chopping boards and work surfaces 	The dirt on vegetables and salad ingredients can contain harmful bacteria. Peeling and washing helps to remove the dirt and bacteria.	Do you do this? Yes If not, what do you do?

before preparing other foods.



SAFETY POINT	WHY?	HOW DO YOU DO THIS?
Make sure you keep ready-to-eat food cold enough. See 'Chilled storage and displaying chilled food' in the Chilling section.	If these types of food are not kept cold enough, harmful bacteria could grow.	Do you do this? Yes If not, what do you do?
Do not use ready-to-eat food after the 'use by' date, if there is one.	You should never use food that has passed its 'use by' date because it might not be safe to eat.	
For food you have prepared, or removed from its original packaging, you should have a method of keeping track of when food should be used or thrown away.		
Always use separate equipment such as vacuum packers, slicers or mincers for raw and ready-to-eat food.	It is not possible to remove harmful bacteria from complex machinery and these bacteria can spread to food.	

WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG

- If you think that a food delivery has not been handled safely, reject the delivery.
- If ready-to-eat vegetables, fruit or salad ingredients have not been washed properly, wash them following the advice on the front of this sheet and clean any work surfaces etc. they have touched.
- If ready-to-eat food has been prepared on a work surface or with a knife that has been used for raw meat, poultry, fish, eggs or unwashed fruit and vegetables, throw the food away.
- If ready-to-eat food has not been chilled safely, throw the food away.

HOW TO STOP THIS HAPPENING AGAIN

- If you do not think a supplier handles food safely, consider changing to a new supplier.
- · Review the way you receive deliveries.
- Review the way you store and prepare ready-to-eat food.
- · Train staff again on this safe method.
- Improve staff supervision.

THINK TWICE!

You should not use the same equipment, such as vacuum packing machines, slicers and mincers, for both raw and ready-to eat food. These are complex pieces of machinery with lots of moving parts and it is very difficult to clean them sufficiently, so bacteria from raw food could easily be transferred to ready-to-eat food.

If you are preparing both raw and ready-to-eat food, you should make sure where possible this is done in separate clean and disinfected areas. If this is not possible, surface and utensils used must be thoroughly cleaned and then disinfected between tasks.

Make sure staff wash their hands thoroughly between tasks, especially when working with raw and ready-to-eat food. This stops bacteria and allergens being spread onto foods, surfaces and equipment.

Write down what went wrong and what you did about it in your diary.





through.



It is essential to handle rice safely to make sure it is safe to eat.

SAFETY POINT

When you cook rice or dishes containing rice, make sure they are very hot (steaming) all the way

If you cook rice to serve later, or use in another dish (e.g. for egg fried rice), make sure the rice is very hot or properly chilled until you use it. See the 'Eggs' safe method for advice on egg fried rice.

You can keep rice hot in a rice cooker if you leave it on. See the 'Hot holding and delivery' safe method for more advice on keeping food hot.

WHY?

Rice can contain spores from a type of harmful bacteria. If cooked rice is left at room temperature, the bacteria could start growing again from the spores. These bacteria will multiply and may produce toxins (poisons) that cause food poisoning. Reheating will not get rid of these.



HOW DO YOU DO THIS?

List the dishes containing rice that you prepare or cook.

How do you keep rice hot?

If you chill down rice, do this as quickly as possible, ideally within one hour.

You can chill down rice more quickly by dividing it into smaller portions, spreading it out on a clean, shallow tray, or putting a container of hot rice into a larger container of cold water or ice.

Never leave rice in the rice cooker, steamer or pan to cool down.

When you have chilled down rice, keep it in the fridge until it is used and use within one day.

See the 'Chilling down hot food' safe method.

If rice is chilled down too slowly, or left out at room temperature, bacteria could start growing again from the spores.



If you chill down rice, how do you do this?

THINK TWICE!

If you reheat rice, make sure it is very hot (steaming) all the way through. Do not reheat rice unless it has been chilled down safely and kept in the fridge until you reheat it. Do not reheat rice more than once.



CHECK IT

Check that rice and dishes containing rice are very hot (steaming) all the way through, with no cold spots.



If you do not do this, what do you do?

WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG

- If rice is not hot enough after reheating, reheat the rice for longer and then test it again.
- If cooked rice has not been kept very hot or properly chilled, throw the rice away.

HOW TO STOP THIS HAPPENING AGAIN

- Check your equipment is working correctly.
- Review your method for cooking/reheating rice. You may need to increase the time and/or temperature, use different equipment or change the size of portions.
- Train staff again on this safe method.
- Improve staff supervision.

Write down what went wrong and what you did about it in your diary.



SAFE METHOD:





Raw eggs can contain harmful bacteria and allergens, on the shell or inside the egg. So it is very important to handle eggs carefully and cook them thoroughly.

SAFETY POINT	WHY?	HOW DO YOU DO THIS?
Make sure you buy eggs from a reputable supplier.	If you do not use a reputable supplier, you cannot be confident that the eggs have been handled safely.	
Store whole eggs in a cool dry place, ideally in the fridge, until you use them.	Storing eggs at a constant cool temperature will help to keep them safe.	
Do not use eggs after their 'best before' date.	After this date there is a greater chance of harmful bacteria growing	
Make sure you rotate stock and use the oldest eggs first.	in the eggs.	
If you use eggs as an ingredient in dishes, make sure they are clearly listed on your menu or ingredients information. See the Food Allergies Safe method for further information.	Some people are allergic to eggs so you must provide information about allergens to your customers if you use them as ingredients in food you make.	
If you are breaking eggs to use later, do not keep large amounts of liquid egg at room temperature. Store it (covered) in the fridge and take out a small amount when you are ready to use it.	Harmful bacteria can multiply in liquid egg that is left out at room temperature.	List the types of dishes containing eggs that you prepare or cook:
Only break the eggs you will need for the day and avoid storing liquid egg for more than 24 hours. Never add new eggs to a batch of liquid egg – use up one batch and then start another. Make sure you rotate your stock by using the oldest eggs first.		
Clean and then disinfect surfaces and utensils thoroughly after they have been used with raw eggs. This is especially important before preparing other foods.	This helps to prevent harmful bacteria and allergens spreading from raw eggs to other foods.	
Always wash your hands thoroughly after handling raw eggs. See the 'Handwashing' method in the Cleaning section.	This helps to prevent harmful bacteria and allergens being spread from your hands to other foods, surfaces or utensils.	



SAFETY POINT WHY? **HOW DO YOU DO THIS?** Use pasteurised egg (not ordinary Pasteurisation kills bacteria, which Do you use pasteurised eggs? eggs) in any food that will not be is why pasteurised egg is the safest Yes No cooked, or will be only lightly cooked. option. Remember, once you have opened pasteurised egg, keep it in the fridge. Cook eggs and foods containing eggs Eggs can contain harmful bacteria. Do you cook eggs and food containing eggs thoroughly until they are very hot (steaming)? thoroughly, until they are very hot If you cook them thoroughly this kills (steaming). any bacteria. Yes If not, what do you do? When you make egg fried rice, add the Egg must be thoroughly cooked all How do you make egg fried rice? egg to the wok first and make sure it the way through to kill any harmful is thoroughly cooked before adding bacteria. You cannot be sure the egg rice or other ingredients. Never add is thoroughly cooked unless you add raw egg to the cooked rice. it first. Never use the same ladle for adding Using the same ladle could spread raw egg to the wok and for serving harmful bacteria and allergens from cooked food, e.g. when making egg the raw egg to the cooked food. foo yung.

WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG

HOW TO STOP THIS HAPPENING AGAIN

- Cook the eggs or dishes containing eggs for longer.
- If ready-to-eat or cooked food has been prepared using a surface or utensils that have been used with raw eggs, throw the food away.
- If staff do not wash hands after handling raw egg, remind them to do so.
- · Review your cooking method.
- Train staff again on this safe method.
- Improve staff supervision.

Write down what went wrong and what you did about it in your diary.



CHECKING FOOD IS COOKED



It is important to show how you check that dishes on your menu are properly cooked.

HOW TO USE THIS SHEET

This sheet is for you to show how you check that dishes are properly cooked. Before you start, make sure you have read the 'Cooking safely' and 'Foods that need extra care' safe methods.

Different checks are suitable for different types of dish. For each key type of cooked dish on your menu, choose a check from the list below and write the type of dish next to it. You do not need to write down every dish on your menu. If you prepare a number of dishes in the same way and use the same check, you can group them together, e.g. you could write 'stir-fried meat dishes in sauce' next to the appropriate check.

You do not need to write down eggs, shellfish or rice on this sheet – these are covered by the 'Eggs', 'Foods that need extra care' and 'Rice' safe methods.

CHECK TYPES OF DISH The largest piece of meat or poultry in e.g. sweet and sour chicken stir-fries and stews should be very hot (steaming) all the way through with no pink or red in them. Check that liquid dishes boil rapidly e.g soup, stock, sauces when you stir them. Check that roasted pork and duck e.g. char sui pork, crispy aromatic duck is very hot (steaming) all the way through with no pink or red meat in the centre. Check that combination dishes e.g. spring rolls, pork balls, dim sum are very hot (steaming) all the way through. Check that all the outside surfaces of e.g. steaks whole cuts of meat and whole joints (beef or lamb) are fully cooked.



CHECK TYPES OF DISH

Check fish is cooked through and the colour and texture has changed.



e.g. whole fish, fish steaks

CHECKING FOOD IS HOT

TYPES OF DISH

Make sure food is very hot (steaming) all the way through.

You should use this check:

- when food has been cooked before and you are cooking it again, e.g. spare ribs, pork balls
- when you cannot find another suitable check for one of your dishes

PROBES TYPES OF DISH

You could also use a temperature probe to check that dishes are properly cooked or reheated. See the 'Prove it' safe method in the Management section.



YOUR CHECK TYPES OF DISH

If you use a different check, you will need to prove that it is safe. See the 'Prove it' safe method in the Management section.

Give details of your check here:

If your menu changes substantially, you may need to fill out this sheet again.

You can download another copy from www.food.gov.uk/catering

HOT HOLDING AND DELIVERY



It is very important to keep food hot until it is served or delivered to the customer, to prevent harmful bacteria from growing.

SAFETY POINT	WHY?	HOW DO YOU DO THIS?
If you need to keep food hot before serving, or on display, you should use suitable equipment. Follow the equipment manufacturer's instructions. Check equipment regularly to make sure it is working properly.	It is difficult to keep food at a consistent, safe temperature without suitable equipment.	Do you hot hold? Yes No
Preheat hot holding equipment before you put any food in it.	Putting food into cold equipment means it might not be kept hot enough to stop harmful bacteria growing.	
Food must be cooked thoroughly and very hot (steaming) before hot holding or display begins.	Hot holding equipment is for hot holding only. It should not be used to cook or reheat food.	

THINK TWICE!

Hot food must be kept at 63 °C or above, except for certain exceptions.

When you display hot food, e.g. on a buffet, you should use suitable hot holding equipment to keep it above 63°C. If this is not possible, you can take food out of hot holding to display it for up to two hours, but you can only do this once.

Food that has not been used within two hours, should either be reheated until it is steaming hot and put back in hot holding or chilled down as quickly as possible to 8°C or below. If it has been out for more than two hours throw it away. Remember to keep the food at a safe temperature until it is used.

If you do take food out of hot holding to display it, remember not to mix new food with the food that is already on display. This could lead to the older food being left out for too long.



SAFETY POINT WHY? **HOW DO YOU DO THIS?** Delivery Make sure food is kept very hot until If food is not kept hot, harmful How do you keep food hot until it is delivered? it is collected by the delivery driver or bacteria can grow in it. customer. You also need to make sure that food is kept hot until it arrives at the customer's home. It is a good idea to use an insulated Using an insulated bag or box to bag or box to transport food. transport food will help keep it hot.

CHECK IT

Make sure food is very hot (steaming) all the way through from the moment it is cooked to the moment it is served.



If you do not do this, what do you do?

WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG

If a dish is not hot enough at any point during hot holding:

- reheat it until it is very hot and put back into hot holding (you should only do this once)
- or chill down the food safely (see the 'Chilling down hot food' safe method in the Chilling section) and reheat it later before serving

If you cannot do either of these things, throw the food away.

Remember that some foods need extra care. See the 'Foods that need extra care' and 'Rice' safe methods.

HOW TO STOP THIS HAPPENING AGAIN

- · Check your equipment is working correctly.
- Review your hot holding safe method. Try using a higher temperature setting or smaller quantities of food.
- If food is getting cold while it is being delivered, use an insulated bag or box if you are not using one already, and / or consider making your delivery area smaller.
- Train staff again on this safe method.
- Improve staff supervision.

Write down what went wrong and what you did about it in your diary.



PROVE IT

If you would like extra reassurance that food in hot holding is hot enough, you can use a temperature probe as a one-off test to prove that your method keeps food at a safe temperature. (See the 'Prove it' method in the Management section for advice on using probes safely).



Managing your business effectively is vital for food safety.



Managing your business effectively is vital for food safety.

This section includes information on different management issues, including checks to do when you open and close, suppliers and contractors, stock control, and training and supervising staff.

The Management section should be used alongside the diary, which should be signed every day by the person responsible for running the business.

OPENING CHECKS

OPENING AND CLOSING CHECKS



It is essential that you and your staff do certain checks every time you open and close. This helps you maintain the basic standards you need to make sure that your business makes food safely.

You should do these checks at the beginning of the day. You can also add your own checks to the list. Your fridges, chilled display equipment and freezers are working properly. Your other equipment (e.g. oven) is working properly. Staff are fit for work and wearing clean work clothes. Food preparation areas are clean and disinfected, where appropriate (work surfaces, equipment, utensils etc.) There are plenty of handwashing and cleaning materials (soap, paper towels, cloths etc.) CLOSING CHECKS You should do these checks at the end of the day. You can also add your own checks to the list. No food is left out. Food past its 'use by' date has been thrown away. Dirty cloths have been removed for cleaning and replaced with clean ones. Waste has been removed and new bags put into the bins.	
Your other equipment (e.g. oven) is working properly. Staff are fit for work and wearing clean work clothes. Food preparation areas are clean and disinfected, where appropriate (work surfaces, equipment, utensils etc.) There are plenty of handwashing and cleaning materials (soap, paper towels, cloths etc.) CLOSING CHECKS You should do these checks at the end of the day. You can also add your own checks to the list. No food is left out. Food past its 'use by' date has been thrown away. Dirty cloths have been removed for cleaning and replaced with clean ones.	You should do these checks at the beginning of the day. You can also add your own checks to the list.
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CLOSING CHECKS You should do these checks at the end of the day. You can also add your own checks to the list. No food is left out. Food past its 'use by' date has been thrown away. Dirty cloths have been removed for cleaning and replaced with clean ones.	Food preparation areas are clean and disinfected, where appropriate (work surfaces, equipment, utensils etc.)
You should do these checks at the end of the day. You can also add your own checks to the list. No food is left out. Food past its 'use by' date has been thrown away. Dirty cloths have been removed for cleaning and replaced with clean ones.	There are plenty of handwashing and cleaning materials (soap, paper towels, cloths etc.)
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Food past its 'use by' date has been thrown away. Dirty cloths have been removed for cleaning and replaced with clean ones.	CLOSING CHECKS
Dirty cloths have been removed for cleaning and replaced with clean ones.	
	You should do these checks at the end of the day. You can also add your own checks to the list.
Waste has been removed and new bags put into the bins.	You should do these checks at the end of the day. You can also add your own checks to the list. No food is left out.
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The opening and closing checks are also listed in the diary.

SAFE METHOD:



EXTRA CHECKS

Carrying out extra checks regularly helps you make sure your methods are being followed.

Some of the safe methods in the rest of the pack advise you to check certain things regularly. These are less frequent than the daily opening and closing checks. You might find it helpful to have all these checks written down in one place.

In the table below there are examples of some extra checks. Write down the details of extra checks that you do and how often you do them. You can add other checks below. When you carry out extra checks, do not forget to make a note of them in the diary.

	WHAT TO DO	DETAILS OF CHECK	HOW OFTEN?
Deep clean (example)	e.g. Clean behind equipment, vents, walls, ceilings, outside waste areas etc.	Deep clean of whole kitchen area and outside waste area including walls, ceilings, extractor fan, vents	Every 6 weeks usually on a Thursday
Deep clean	e.g. Clean behind equipment, vents, walls, ceilings, outside waste areas etc.		
Maintenance	e.g. Clear drains, clean extractor fans/filters and fridge/freezer condensers.		
Dishwasher	Remove food debris and lime scale from water jets, filters and drains. Clean around door seals etc.		
Temperature probe	If you use a probe, check regularly that it is accurate.		
Pest control check	e.g. Look for signs of damage to walls, doors etc. that could let in pests, and signs of pests.		

SAFE METHOD:





Sometimes you might want to use a probe to prove that your methods are safe.

SAFE METHOD	WHAT TO DO	ном то до іт
Cooking and reheating	The 'Cooking safely' and 'Reheating' safe methods in the Cooking section tell you how to check that food is thoroughly cooked/reheated. If you do a different check then you will need to prove that it is safe. You only need to do this once. The food is safe if it has reached a high enough temperature for a long enough time.	If you want to check the temperature of a food, use a clean probe. Insert the probe so that the tip is in the centre of the food (or the thickest part). Examples of safe time/temperature combinations include: • 80°C for at least 6 seconds • 75°C for at least 30 seconds • 70°C for at least 2 minutes • 65°C for at least 10 minutes
Hot holding	The 'Hot holding' safe method in the Cooking section tells you how to hot hold safely. It is a legal requirement that hot food must be kept above 63°C.	To check that food in hot holding is above 63°C, use a clean probe. Insert the probe so the tip is in the centre of the food (or the thickest part).
Chilling down hot food Chilled storage and displaying chilled food	The 'Chilling down hot food' safe method in the Chilling section tells you how to chill down hot food safely and the 'Chilled storage and displaying chilled food' safe method tells you how to keep food cold.	To check that food is at 8°C or below, use a clean probe. Insert the probe so that the tip is in the centre of the food (or the thickest part).
	It is a legal requirement in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and recommended in Scotland, that certain chilled foods must be kept at 8°C or below.	
	Sometimes there might be more than one way of chilling down hot food that is suitable for what you are doing. Then you might want to compare different options to find out which is most effective.	When you have just cooked the food, test its temperature with a clean probe. Start to chill it using one option and test the temperature again at regular intervals to see how quickly it is dropping.
	Compare different chilling options by trying them out with the same food.	Repeat this with other options to see which is fastest.
Freezing	The freezing method in the Chilling section tells you how to freeze food safely. If you are freezing food you need to make a note of the date (e.g. on a sticker) it was frozen including the day month and year.	Have a system of labels and/or stickers for labelling food clearly so you know how long it has been in the freezer. Re-label food with the date of freezing (the day month and year).
	If you are freezing food with a use by date, to use later, this has to be done before the 'use by' date has passed, you should clearly note the date you froze the food.	It is a good idea to make a note of this in your Diary or in the Extra checks box, so there is a record that can be checked.
	It is important you are able to show how long the food has been frozen.	

You can record what you have done to prove your methods on the 'Prove it: records' sheet in the diary.





PROBE TYPE

WHERE TO USE THE PROBE

HOW TO USE THE PROBE

Dial thermometer



These are commonly used to test meat. Some are oven-safe and can be left in the meat while it cooks. Others are not oven-safe and are designed to be inserted when you have cooked the meat.

If the probe is not already in the meat, insert it and leave it for up to two minutes before taking a reading. Clean the probe thoroughly and disinfect it before you use it again. This helps to prevent cross-contamination.

Digital thermometer



These are generally easy to use and accurate. They can be used with lots of foods, but they are not suitable to go in the oven.

Insert the probe. Wait for the display to stabilise before taking a reading. Clean the probe thoroughly and disinfect it before you use it again. This helps to prevent cross-contamination.

CHECKING YOUR PROBE

It is essential to know that your probe is working properly, so you can rely on its readings. So you should check it regularly. The manufacturer's instructions should include details of how often a probe needs to be checked and how to tell if it is accurate.

- A simple way to check a digital probe is to put it in iced water and boiling water:
- The readings in iced water should be between -1°C and 1°C.
- The readings in boiling water should be between 99°C and 101°C.

If the reading is outside this range, you should replace your probe or return it to the manufacturer to be calibrated.

LOOKING AFTER YOUR PROBE

It is very important to keep your probe clean, otherwise it could spread dirt and harmful bacteria to the food you are testing. After a probe has been inserted into food, clean and disinfect it between use.

You need to look after your probe to prevent it from getting damaged and help keep it working properly. Do not leave a digital probe inside your fridge or freezer, or on hot surfaces. When you are not using it, store it safely, away from extreme temperatures and liquids. Keep the probe in its case, if it has one. Avoid banging or dropping your probe. If the battery is low, replace it immediately.

TRAINING AND SUPERVISION



It is essential to train and supervise your staff effectively to make sure they handle food safely.

You should train your staff in all the safe methods that are relevant to the job they do. You should also supervise them to check they are following the safe methods properly.

WHAT TO DO	HOW?
Once you have worked through them, use the safe methods in this pack to train staff. You need to be sure that each member of staff knows the safe methods for all the tasks they do.	Show the member of staff what to do, question them carefully on their knowledge and then ask them to show you.
Make sure you know what training each member of staff has received.	Make a note on the Staff training record in the diary every time you train a member of staff.
Watch the member of staff when they are carrying out a task as part of their work.	Make comments and observations to help the member of staff improve the way they work.
When a member of staff has completed a task, ask them about how they followed the safe method, to help you find out if they did it correctly.	Reward good performance by giving positive feedback when the member of staff has followed the safe method successfully.
	If the safe method is not being followed by the member of staff, tell them how they are going wrong and why it is important to follow the safe method.

WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG

HOW TO STOP THIS HAPPENING AGAIN

If staff are not following a safe method properly, train them again and make sure they understand why it is important to follow the method.

Use the 4-weekly review in the diary to identify any problems with how staff are following safe methods and plan your training to address these.

MANAGE IT

When you sign the diary you are confirming that you have supervised all the staff involved in making food that day. This means making sure that your staff follow your safe methods and that any problems are being solved and recorded in the diary.

If you are away from the business, you can give responsibility for the diary to a member of staff. Sometimes there may be more than one person responsible during the day, e.g. when there is more than one shift, and in these cases the diary may need more than one signature.

Make a note in the diary of those members of staff who have been given this responsibility and train them on all the relevant safe methods, including any in the Management section. Staff must understand how the diary works. If something different happens, or something goes wrong, they will need to take action and make a note of what they have done in the diary. You should still complete the 4-weekly review yourself.

MANAGING FOOD ALLERGEN INFORMATION



How you handle allergens is important for food safety.

The introduction of allergen rules in December 2014, means it is a legal requirement for food businesses to provide information about the allergenic ingredients used in the food and drink they serve. You need to be able to supply information for each item on your menu that contains, as an ingredient, any of the 14 main allergens. (See Allergies Safe method in Cross—contamination Safe method)

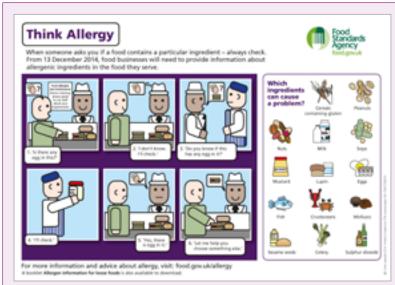
WHAT TO DO	WHY?	
Customer information Allergen information should be provided. You can do this • in writing and up front, e.g. on a menu or chalkboard • by asking a member of staff. Staff should know where allergen information can be found or be able to handle allergen information requests. If the information is provided by staff, it must be accurate, consistent and up-to-date, e.g. using recipe sheets or a record of food labels.	Customers with allergies need to kn can make safe food choices to avoid There should be a way to check that is correct and complete.	d an allergic reaction.
There should be clear signposting letting customers know where to obtain allergen information if they need it. It's a good idea to have a sign in your business to tell customers to ask for allergen information if they need it.	Customers should let you know if they need allergen information so you can help them make safe food choices.	FOOD ALLERGIES and INTOLERANCES Please speak to our staff about the ingredients in your meal, when making your order. Thank you.
If your menu changes, make sure you change the list of ingredients with allergens for that food or drink.	If you do not have the correct ingredients listed, customers could get the wrong information and become ill from eating the food.	Ingredients Water, Carrots, Onions, Red Lentils (4.5%) Potatoes, Cauliflower, Leeks, Peas, Cornflour, Wheatflour, Salt, Cream, Yeast Extract, Concentrated Tomato Pasta, Garlic, Sugar, Celery Seed, Vegetable Oil (Sunflower), Herbs and Spice, White Pepper, Parsley.
Labelling and storage Ingredient containers need to be labelled clearly so you know what allergens are in them. Careful storage will help you do this. Check pre-packed food labels so you know what allergens are in them.	If food is not labelled clearly, you could use ingredients that might be harmful to a customer who has an allergy to them.	
Deliveries Check deliveries to make sure you have the correct order and labelling information is provided.	If you receive the wrong order or a different product, there may be different allergens in the food.	

THINK TWICE!

You need to know what allergens are in the food you prepare and have accurate information to give customers, if they ask. All staff should know how to handle requests for allergen information. Allergies can be life threatening.



There are some helpful tools and templates to help you record allergenic ingredients in your dishes. You can find this and other tools at: **food.gov.uk/allergen-resources**



You can use this Think Allergy poster to help with staff training. This poster is also available in Simplified Chinese, Punjabi, Bengali and Urdu.



Use this allergen recipe chart to help you keep a record of the allergens in the food you prepare. Staff can also use this to give information to customers.



These individual allergen menu records can be used for one-off dishes, for example when you have 'specials' or when ingredients run out or are changed.

SAFE METHOD:



CUSTOMERS

Customer feedback is a good indication of how well you are managing your business.

Keeping your customers happy and protecting their health with good food hygiene is essential to the success of your business. So it is very important to pay attention to any complaints.

WHAT TO DO	HOW?
Listen to complaints.	Listen to any complaints carefully and write down the details. These could point out a problem in your business.
Find the source of the problem.	Work out how the problem arose. This is especially important if it is a problem affecting food safety.
	If a customer complains of being made ill by your food you should investigate carefully. If appropriate, you should inform your environmental health department.
Solve the problem.	Review the relevant safe methods. You may need to change how you do things.
	Note any changes in the diary.
Train staff on how to deal with customers.	It is important that staff know how to respond to customer feedback and what action to take.

SUPPLIERS AND CONTRACTORS



How you handle suppliers and contractors is important to food safety.

You are required by food law to take reasonable precautions and do all that is needed to protect your customers. If you do not do this, your business and reputation could suffer.

WHAT TO DO	WHY?	HOW DO YOU DO THIS?
Choose suppliers very carefully.	It is important that you have reputable suppliers that you can trust to supply and handle food safely, as well as deliver on time etc.	 Make sure you choose reputable suppliers you can trust. Ask the following questions: Is the supplier registered with the local authority? Does the supplier store, transport and pack their goods in a hygienic way? Does the supplier provide allergen information? Do they have any certification or quality assurance? Does the supplier/contractor supply fully referenced invoices? Ask other businesses for trusted recommendations.
Make sure that your raw ingredients have been handled safely.	The starting point for making food safely is to be confident about the safety of your raw ingredients and any ready-made products you buy in.	 Check that the supplier has a food safety management system. Carry out regular delivery time, temperature and quality spot checks. If you buy goods from a cash and carry, make sure that the vehicle you use to transport them is clean and that you bring chilled and frozen food back as soon as possible and put it straight into a fridge or freezer.
Keep a record of what food products you have bought, who you bought them from, the quantity and the date.	This is a legal requirement and is so that you or an enforcement officer can check back to see where a food came from. Ideally, you should keep these records until you are sure that the food they refer to has been consumed without any problems.	 Usually the easiest way to do this is to keep all your invoices and receipts. Or you might want to record the information in a different way, for example keeping a record of the batch number and other details. Keep these records in a way that makes it easy for you or an enforcement officer to check them.
Choose contractors carefully.	Services such as pest control can be valuable in helping you to make food safely. It is important to have contractors you can trust to deliver these services effectively.	• Use the same checks you would use to choose suppliers (see top box).

WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG

If you are contacted by an unknown food supplier, check with your local authority to see if they are a registered and reputable business; they could be fraudulent.

If you do not think that the food a supplier delivers has been handled safely (for example, if you think it has not been kept cold enough) reject the delivery, contact your supplier immediately and write the details in the diary. If you have repeated problems, you can do the following things:

- 1. Contact the supplier/contractor by phone.
- 2. Write a formal letter of complaint.

- 3. Change supplier/contractor.
- 4. Contact your local authority.



STOCK CONTROL

Effective stock control is an important part of managing food safety.

WHAT TO DO	WHY?	HOW DO YOU DO THIS?
Go through your menu and estimate how much of each ingredient you will need.	Working through the menu allows you to plan for your specific needs.	 Review your menu regularly and how it affects your needs for stock. Discuss your needs with your supplier.
Plan ahead to make sure you have the right amount of stock and order carefully.	Not having too much stock is best for food safety – and your profits.	 Plan the stock you need for each shift. Make sure staff know the stock requirements for each shift. Use a supplier who understands your business needs and supplies stock on time. Do a stock check before placing an order.
Check all stock when it is delivered to make sure that: it is within its 'use by' date it has been kept cold enough it has not gone off the stock is clean and not damaged, e.g. throw away any punctured vacuum packs, swollen packs or badly dented cans and check that tops are secure on bottles and jars and seals are unbroken.	These checks are all to make sure that food is safe for you to use. Damaged packaging could mean that food will not be safe to use. Swollen or 'blown' packs can be a sign that bacteria have grown in food or drinks. If bottles or jars have been opened, or if seals have been broken, the food or drink might not be safe to use.	 Train your staff in what to look for when checking deliveries. Have a written agreement with your supplier about your delivery requirements. Carry out spot checks on the deliveries yourself. Use the diary to record any issues or problems with deliveries. If you move food from its original packaging to another container, make sure you make a note of the name of the food, the ingredients and the 'use by' or 'best before' date.
Carry out regular stock checks and throw away any food that has passed its 'use by' date. If you freeze food, have a system in place to make sure it is clearly labelled with the date it is frozen.	It is against the law to serve food after its 'use by' date because it might not be safe to eat and could make your customers ill. If labelling is not clear on frozen food, new stock might be used before old stock.	 Follow the 'first in, first out' system of stock rotation, so that older stock is used first. This helps to avoid waste. Train your staff in stock control and make sure they know in what order to use foods. Check regularly that stock control is being carried out effectively and food past its 'use by' date is thrown away. Record stock checks in the diary.

WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG

HOW TO STOP THIS HAPPENING AGAIN

- If you find that you have more food in stock than you need and you do not think you will use it all before the 'use by' date, you could freeze some of it to be used in the future.
 Follow the manufacturer's instructions on freezing and label the food as appropriate. See 'Freezing safe method'
- If you find that food that has passed its 'use by' date has not been thrown away, throw it away immediately.
- If you do not think that a food delivery has been handled safely, reject the delivery if possible. Do not use the food and contact your supplier immediately.
- Review your ordering process.
- Review your stock rotation system.
- Review your agreement with your supplier.
- Train staff again on this safe method.
- Improve staff supervision.

PRODUCT WITHDRAWAL AND RECALL



Responding quickly to any problems with food products you use or sell is an important part of managing food safety in your business.

Sometimes there will be a problem with a food product that means you will need to 'withdraw' it (when you should stop using/selling it) and/or 'recall' it (when customers are asked to return/destroy a product). You may find out about a problem with a product from:

- a manufacturer of the product
- · a supplier or wholesaler
- a notice in newspapers
- · your local authority
- · a trade association
- the Food Standards Agency

If you hear about a problem with a product, you should stop using/selling it straight away. You might also need to tell your customers. There are a number of reasons that a product might be withdrawn or recalled. For example, it could have been found to:

- · contain harmful bacteria
- be physically contaminated, e.g. with pieces of glass or metal
- be wrongly labelled, which could be a problem for people with food allergies

You or your staff may also notice a problem with a food product that means it may not be safe to eat. If this happens, you should stop using/selling it straight away and tell your local authority and the Food Standards Agency.

WHAT TO DO	HOW?
Make sure you know the details of the problem.	If a manufacturer or supplier has issued a product withdrawal or recall, make sure you know which product and which batches are affected.
As soon as you find out about a problem with a product, stop using/selling it.	Remove the affected product from anywhere you use, store or sell it and label it clearly to show it should not be used/sold.
	Remember to check if you have used the product as an ingredient in any food you have prepared and stored, e.g. in the freezer – if you have, ask your local authority for advice.
Make sure your staff know about the problem.	This is so your staff know what to do and do not use/sell the product.
Tell your customers if you need to.	If the problem is with a product that your customers might not eat or drink straight away, you may need to let them know that the product is being recalled and why.
	If the manufacturer or supplier asks you to put up a recall notice, you should do this. If you are not sure what to do, contact your local authority.

THINK TWICE!

It is a legal requirement to keep a record of what food products you have bought, who you bought them from, the quantity and the date. Usually the easiest way to do this is to keep all your invoices and receipts. You should keep this information in a way that makes it easy for you or an enforcement officer to check back to see where a product came from.



SAFE METHOD COMPLETION RECORD

To complete the pack you need to work through each section and complete all the safe methods that are relevant to your business. **Most small caterers will need to fill in all the methods.** But if, for example, a business does not hot hold food then the 'Hot holding' method will not be relevant to them.

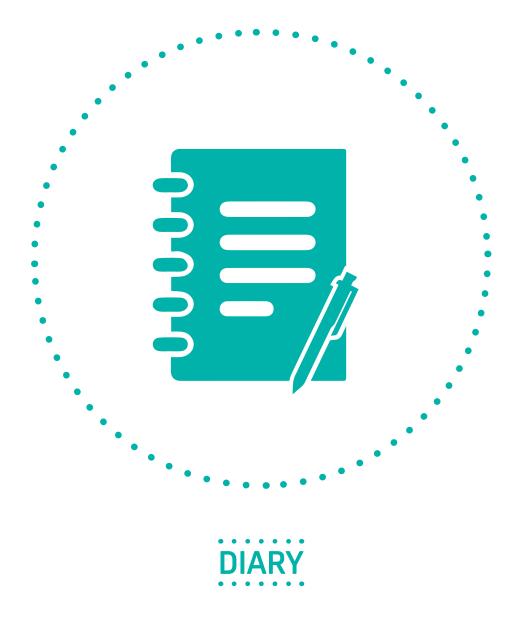
It does not matter in what order you work through the safe methods. As you complete each one, fill in this record. When you have completed all the safe methods that are relevant to your business, this sheet will show that you have worked through the pack.

SAFE METHOD	DATE	SIGNATURE	TICK HERE IF SAFE METHOD NOT RELEVANT
Cross-contamination			
Personal hygiene			
Cloths			
Separating foods			
Food allergies			
Physical and chemical contamination			
Pest control			
Maintenance			
Cleaning			
Handwashing			
Cleaning effectively			
Clear and clean as you go			
Your cleaning schedule			
Chilling			
Chilled storage and displaying chilled food			
Chilling down hot food			
Defrosting			
Freezing			

SAFE METHOD COMPLETION RECORD



SAFE METHOD	DATE	SIGNATURE	TICK HERE IF SAFE METHOD NOT RELEVANT
Cooking			
Cooking safely			
Foods that need extra care			
Ready-to-eat food			
Rice			
Eggs			
Checking food is cooked			
Hot holding and delivery			
Management			
Opening and closing checks			
Extra checks			
Prove it			
Managing food allergen information			
Training and supervision			
Customers			
Suppliers and contractors			
Stock control			
Product withdrawal and recall			



NAME:	
BUSINESS:	
ADDRESS:	
START DATE:	
END DATE:	

INTRODUCTION



HOW DOES THIS DIARY WORK?

The diary is specially designed to help you run your business effectively. It contains:

- week-to-view diary pages
- checks to do every day when you open and close
- · 4-weekly review
- · staff training record
- · suppliers' list
- · cleaning schedule

The manager should sign the diary every day to say that:

- · the opening and closing checks have been done
- · your safe methods have been followed

The diary should take about one minute a day to complete, unless you have something special to write down.

If anything **different** happens, or if something goes **wrong**, you should make a note in the diary of what happened and what you did. This is so you can show that you have taken action to make sure that food is safe to eat.

If the manager is not in, he or she can give responsibility for the diary to another member of staff. See the 'Training and supervision' safe method in the Management section.

4-WEEKLY REVIEW

The 4-weekly review gives you the opportunity to look back at previous weeks and identify any persistent problems. Write down details of these and how you decide to tackle them. You might need to train staff again on certain safe methods and/or change how you do things.

You may find it useful to read the 4-weekly review before starting to use the diary. It will give you an idea of the kind of things you might need to write down during the week.

OPENING AND CLOSING CHECKS

It is essential that you and your staff do certain checks every time you open and close. Make sure you have worked through the 'Opening and closing checks' safe method in the Management section.

You might find it helpful, on a daily basis, to use the list of opening and closing checks in this diary (see next page).



OPENING CHECKS
You should do these checks at the beginning of the day. You can also add your own checks to the list.
Your fridges, chilled display equipment and freezers are working properly.
Your other equipment (e.g. oven) is working properly.
Staff are fit for work and wearing clean work clothes.
Food preparation areas are clean and disinfected, where appropriate (work surfaces, equipment, utensils etc.)
There are plenty of handwashing and cleaning materials (soap, paper towels, cloths etc.)
CLOSING CHECKS
CLOSING CHECKS You should do these checks at the end of the day. You can also add your own checks to the list.
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You should do these checks at the end of the day. You can also add your own checks to the list. No food is left out. Food past its 'use by' date has been thrown away. Dirty cloths have been removed for cleaning and replaced with clean ones.

EXTRA CHECKS

Extra checks are less frequent than the opening and closing checks. See the 'Extra checks' safe method in the Management section. There is a box at the end of each week in the diary pages for you to fill in any extra checks you have done.



For each member of staff, make a note of when they have been trained on different safe methods.

Name: Telephone no: Address:			Name: Telephone no: Address:		
SAFE METHOD ON FIRST DAY:	DATE	INITIALS	SAFE METHOD ON FIRST DAY:	DATE	INITIALS
Working with food? sheet			Working with food? sheet		
Opening and closing checks			Opening and closing checks		
Cross-contamination			Cross-contamination		
0					
Cleaning			Cleaning		
Chilling			Chilling		
Offining			Offining		
Cooking	1		Cooking		
Management			Management		
Other training or retraining			Other training or retraining		
	I				



Name: Telephone no: Address:			Name: Telephone no: Address:		
SAFE METHOD ON FIRST DAY:	DATE	INITIALS	SAFE METHOD ON FIRST DAY:	DATE	INITIALS
Working with food? sheet			Working with food? sheet		
Opening and closing checks			Opening and closing checks		
Cross-contamination			Cross-contamination		I
Cleaning	I		Cleaning		I
Chilling			Chilling		
Chilling			Chilling		
Coalding			Cooling		
Cooking			Cooking		
Management			Management		
Planagement			Planagement		
Other training or retraining			Other training or retraining		
oard doming of fedoming			other domining of redomining		



Telephone no: Address:			Telephone no: Address:		
SAFE METHOD ON FIRST DAY:	DATE	INITIALS	SAFE METHOD ON FIRST DAY:	DATE	INITIALS
Working with food? sheet			Working with food? sheet		
Opening and closing checks			Opening and closing checks		
Cross-contamination			Cross-contamination		
Ol .					
Cleaning			Cleaning		
Chilling			Chilling		
•					
Cooking	_		Cooking		
Management			Management		
Манауентент			Манауентент		
Other training or retraining			Other training or retraining		
. J			3 g		



Name: Telephone no: Address:			Name: Telephone no: Address:		
SAFE METHOD ON FIRST DAY:	DATE	INITIALS	SAFE METHOD ON FIRST DAY:	DATE	INITIALS
Working with food? sheet			Working with food? sheet		
Opening and closing checks			Opening and closing checks		
Cross-contamination			Cross-contamination		I
Cleaning	I		Cleaning		I
Chilling			Chilling		
Chilling			Chilling		
Coalding			Cooling		
Cooking			Cooking		
Management			Management		
Planagement			Planagement		
Other training or retraining			Other training or retraining		
oard doming of fedoming			other domining of redomining		

SUPPLIERS' LIST



BUSINESS NAME:	DELIVER	Y DAY(S):	М	Т	W	Т	F	S	S
	ead time for placing In order e.g. Monda or Wednesday								
Contact name:	Goods supplied:								
Telephone:									
Address:									
BUSINESS NAME:	> DELIVER	RY DAY(S):	М	Т	W	Т	F	S	S
	ead time for placing In order e.g. Monda Or Wednesday	9 y							
Contact name:	Goods supplied:								
Telephone:									
Address:									
BUSINESS NAME:	> DELIVER	RY DAY(S):	М	Т	W	Т	F	S	S
	ead time for placing In order e.g. Monda or Wednesday								
Contact name:	Goods supplied:								
Telephone:									
Address:									



SUPPLIERS' LIST

BUSINESS NAME:	DELIVER	Y DAY(S):	M	T	W	Т	F	S	S
	Lead time for placing an order e.g. Monday for Wednesday								
Contact name:	Goods supplied:								
Telephone:									
Address:									
BUSINESS NAME:	DELIVER'	Y DAY(S):	М	Т	W	Т	F	S	S
	Lead time for placing an order e.g. Monday for Wednesday								
Contact name:	Goods supplied:								
Telephone:									
Address:									
BUSINESS NAME:		Y DAY(S):	М	<u>T</u>	W	Т	<u>F</u>	<u>S</u>	S
	Lead time for placing an order e.g. Monday for Wednesday								
Contact name:	Goods supplied:								
Telephone:									
Address:									

CONTACTS LIST



You can use this sheet to write down the contact details of different services or people who you might need to contact from day to day, or in an emergency. For example:

- environmental health department
- electrician
- plumber
- pest control contractor
- refuse collector/recycling service

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT	USEFUL FOR ADVICE ON:
Contact name:	Food hygiene Pest control
Telephone:	Drainage
Address:	Noise and odour control Product withdrawal and recall
	USEFUL FOR ADVICE ON:
Contact name:	
Telephone:	
Address:	
	USEFUL FOR ADVICE ON:
Contact name:	
Telephone:	
Address:	
	USEFUL FOR ADVICE ON:
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Telephone: Address: Contact name:	>	
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Telephone: Address: Contact name: Telephone:	>	
Telephone: Address: Contact name: Telephone:	>	USEFUL FOR ADVICE ON:
Telephone: Address: Contact name: Telephone: Address:	>	USEFUL FOR ADVICE ON:

CLEANING SCHEDULE



Item	Freq	uency	y of cl	eanin	9	Precautions	Method of cleaning
	Afteruse		Every shift Daily Weekly Other		Other	e.g. wear gloves or goggles	
Work surface	Х					Wear gloves	 Remove any obvious food and dirt. Wash the surface with hot soapy water (detergent diluted according to manufacturer's instructions) to remove grease and any other food and dirt. Rinse with clean water to remove the detergent and loosened food and dirt. Apply a disinfectant. Make sure you leave it on for the contact time recommended by the manufacturer. Rinse with clean water to remove the disinfectant. Leave to dry naturally or use a clean disposable cloth.



CLEANING SCHEDULE

FILL IN DET	FILL IN DETAILS OF ALL THE ITEMS YOU CLEAN							
Item	Freq	uency	y of cl	eanin	9	Precautions	Method of cleaning	
	After use	Every shift	Daily	Weekly	Other	e.g. wear gloves or goggles		

PROVE IT: RECORDS



Sometimes you might want to prove that a method is safe, for example if you use a method that is different to those recommended in the pack, or if you would like reassurance that a method is working properly. See the 'Prove it' safe method in the Management section.

SAFE METHOD	HOW DID YOU PROVE IT?	DATE

Week commencing:			
Monday Any problems or change	es – what did you do?	Friday Any problems or chang	es – what did you do?
Opening checks	Closing checks	Opening checks	Closing checks
Name	Signed	Name	Signed
Our safe methods were followe	ed and effectively supervised today.	Our safe methods were follow	ved and effectively supervised today.
Tuesday Any problems or change	es – what did you do?	Saturday Any problems or chang	es – what did you do?
Opening checks	Closing checks	Opening checks	Closing checks
Name	Signed	Name	Signed
Our safe methods were followe	ed and effectively supervised today.	Our safe methods were follow	ved and effectively supervised today.
Wednesday Any problems or change	es – what did you do?	Sunday Any problems or chang	es – what did you do?
Opening checks	Closing checks	Opening checks	Closing checks
Name	Signed	Name	Signed
Our safe methods were followe	ed and effectively supervised today.	Our safe methods were follow	ved and effectively supervised today.
Thursday Any problems or change	es – what did you do?	Extra checks Any problems or chang	es – what did you do?
Opening checks	Closing checks		
Name	Signed	Name	Signed
Our safe methods were followe	ed and effectively supervised today.		

Week commencing:			
Monday Any problems or change	es – what did you do?	Friday Any problems or cha	anges – what did you do?
Opening checks	Closing shooks	Opening checks	Clasina abaska
Name	Closing checks Signed	Name	Closing checks Signed
Our safe methods were followed	ed and effectively supervised today.	Our safe methods were fo	ollowed and effectively supervised today.
Tuesday Any problems or change	es – what did you do?	Saturday Any problems or cha	anges – what did you do?
Opening checks	Closing checks	Opening checks	Closing checks
Name	Signed	Name	Signed
Our safe methods were followe	ed and effectively supervised today.	Our safe methods were fo	ollowed and effectively supervised today.
Wednesday Any problems or change	es – what did you do?	Sunday Any problems or cha	anges – what did you do?
Opening checks	Closing checks	Opening checks	Closing checks
Name	Signed	Name	Signed
Our safe methods were followed	ed and effectively supervised today.	Our safe methods were fo	ollowed and effectively supervised today.
Thursday Any problems or change	es – what did you do?	Extra checks Any problems or cha	anges – what did you do?
Opening checks	Closing checks		
Name	Signed	Name	Signed
Our safe methods were followed	ed and effectively supervised today.		

Week commencing:			
Monday Any problems or change	es – what did you do?	Friday Any problems or change	es – what did you do?
Opening checks	Closing checks	Opening checks	Closing checks
Name	Signed	Name	Signed
			
Our safe methods were follow	ed and effectively supervised today.	Our safe methods were follow	red and effectively supervised today.
Tuesday Any problems or change	es – what did you do?	Saturday Any problems or change	es – what did you do?
Opening checks	Closing checks	Opening checks	Closing checks
Name	Signed	Name	Signed
Our safe methods were follow	ed and effectively supervised today.	Our safe methods were follow	red and effectively supervised today.
Wednesday Any problems or change	es – what did you do?	Sunday Any problems or change	es – what did you do?
Opening checks	Closing checks	Opening checks	Closing checks
Name	Signed	Name	Signed
			
Our safe methods were follow	ed and effectively supervised today.	Our safe methods were follow	red and effectively supervised today.
Thursday Any problems or change	es – what did you do?	Extra checks Any problems or change	es – what did you do?
Opening checks	Closing checks		
Name	Signed	Name	Signed
Our safe methods were followed	ed and effectively supervised today.		

Week commencing:			
Monday Any problems or change	es – what did you do?	Friday Any problems or cha	anges – what did you do?
Opening checks	Closing shooks	Opening checks	Clasina abaska
Name	Closing checks Signed	Name	Closing checks Signed
Our safe methods were followed	ed and effectively supervised today.	Our safe methods were fo	ollowed and effectively supervised today.
Tuesday Any problems or change	es – what did you do?	Saturday Any problems or cha	anges – what did you do?
Opening checks	Closing checks	Opening checks	Closing checks
Name	Signed	Name	Signed
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Wednesday Any problems or change	es – what did you do?	Sunday Any problems or cha	anges – what did you do?
Opening checks	Closing checks	Opening checks	Closing checks
Name	Signed	Name	Signed
Our safe methods were followed	ed and effectively supervised today.	Our safe methods were fo	ollowed and effectively supervised today.
Thursday Any problems or change	es – what did you do?	Extra checks Any problems or cha	anges – what did you do?
Opening checks	Closing checks		
Name	Signed	Name	Signed
Our safe methods were followed	ed and effectively supervised today.		



4-WEEKLY REVIEW

You should regularly review the methods used in your business to check that they are up to date, and still being followed by you and your staff.

You can use the checklist below to help you. Look back over the past 4 weeks' diary entries. If you had a serious problem, or the same thing went wrong three times or more, make a note of it here, find out why and do something about it.

Did you have a serious problem or did the same thing on wrong three times or more?

bio you have a serious problem of old the same thing go wrong three times of more:	Yes	No	
Details:			
What did you do about it?			
Did you get a new member of staff in the past 4 weeks?	Yes	No	
Were they trained in your methods?	Yes	No	
Have you changed your menu?	Yes	No	
Have you reviewed your safe methods?	Yes	No	
Any changes/new methods?			
. Have you shanced a calley/hought pay incredients?	Voo	No	
Have you changed supplier/bought new ingredients?	Yes	No	
Do these affect any of your safe methods?			
 Are you using any new/different equipment? 	Yes	No	
Do these affect any of your safe methods?			
Other changes:			



NOTES