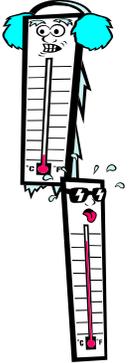


Basic Food Safety Tips for Exempt Groups

Wisconsin Food Code Fact Sheet # 27

Exempt Group is an organization /person who, by their affiliation or type of food sales/service has an exception from licensing and inspection from their regulatory food authority.

Temperatures



- Cold hold temperature: The internal temperature of food in cold storage must be at 41 °F or below (when using ice to cool foods make sure ice surrounds entire product to assure proper cooling temperature).

Cook Temperatures

- *poultry* - 165°F for 15 seconds
- *ground meat & brats* - 155°F for 15 seconds
- *beef & pork* - 145°F for 15 seconds
- *eggs* - 145°F for 15 seconds
- *hotdogs* - 140°F for 15 seconds
- **Hot holding temperature:** The internal temperature of hot foods must be at 135°F or above. Do not rely on temperature gauges of equipment.
- **Re-heated foods for hot holding:** Food to be re-heated must reach an internal minimum temperature of 165 °F for 15 seconds. Reheat foods quickly and store hot at a temperature of 135 °F or above.

Metal Stem Thermometer

- A metal stem thermometer must be available to monitor temperatures of perishable foods. The thermometer must have a range of 0°F to 220°F.
- Check thermometer to assure accuracy to +/- 2°F; and calibrate as needed (refer to fact sheet # 7)

Food Protection



- Keep cooked foods from coming in contact with raw foods, or with utensils contaminated by raw foods such as cutting board, knives, etc.
- Food must be kept covered to prevent contamination from insects, dust, etc.
- Store food and equipment at least 6 inches off the floor.
- Customers are not allowed in the food preparation area.
- Have spare clean utensils available.
- Condiments should be served from individual packages, plastic squeeze bottles, pump dispensers, etc. or served by food service employees.
- Avoid using insecticides on site, if needed use non-chemical control means. If chemical

insecticides or pesticides are used, read and follow the labeling instructions carefully.



Thawing Frozen Foods

- Frozen food should be maintained frozen or below 41°F.
- Thaw foods prior to cooking in a refrigerator, or cook them from a frozen state. In an “emergency” situation thaw under cool running water. Never thaw foods at room temperature.



Hand Washing Station

- Supply hand soap and single service towels.
- Provide means of running water by use of a campers jug, cooler or similar container.
- Wash hands under warm running water, and catch waste in a bucket.
- Do not use hand sanitizer gel as a substitute for handwashing.

Bare Hand Contact

- Do not touch ready to eat foods with bare hands.
- To eliminate bare hand contact use utensils, deli papers, gloves, etc.

Sanitizer and Wiping Cloth



- Use 1 capful unscented bleach mixed per gallon of water. Store wiping cloth in bleach or sanitizer solution between uses. Change solution frequently
- Wipe food contact areas and spills with wiping cloth.
- Read and carefully follow label directions on sanitizer use.

Personnel Hygiene



- All personnel must wash hands thoroughly before handling food, after using the toilet facilities after smoking and/or when your hands become contaminated.
- Food handlers should not be ill or have open sores.
- Do not smoke in a food preparation area.
- Food preparation personnel should wear effective hair restraints such as a hair net or baseball cap.

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