

Temperature Guide

Safely cooking food is a matter of **temperature**. Foods need to reach a high enough inside temperature to kill bacteria that can cause foodborne illness.



A food thermometer is required to ensure that meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs are cooked to safe temperatures.

Minimum Internal Temperatures



135°F

Commercially processed, pre-cooked food such as cheese sticks, fully cooked chicken tenders, etc. Hot-held fruits, vegetables, grains, and legumes.



145°F

Seafood; steaks/chops of pork, beef, veal, or lamb; eggs that will be served immediately.



145°F

Roasts of pork, beef, veal or lamb.
(Can vary, see 3-401.11)



155°F

Ground meat other than poultry; injected meat; ground, chopped, or minced seafood, eggs that will be hot held for service.



165°F

Whole or ground poultry; stuffing made with potentially hazardous ingredients; stuffed meat, seafood, poultry, or pasta; reheated dishes.



Color is not a reliable indicator of safe internal temperatures!



Forsyth County
Department of Public Health

Promoting Health, Improving Lives
Environmental Health Services Division

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