Cooking It Safe

Proper cooking temperatures and time destroy foodborne bacteria and parasites making the food safe to eat.

Thermometers are important food safety tools because the cook can determine that minimum internal temperatures are reached before the food is served. Calibrated instant read thermometers are inexpensive and easy to use. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for testing and adjusting the thermometer.



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Use a canorated thermometer to ensure accuracy.	
Food	Temperatures
Poultry, whole or ground	165°F (74°C) for 15 seconds
duck, chicken, turkey	
Ratites (ostrich, emu, rhea)	155°F(68°C) for 15 seconds
Stuffing, stuffed meat, poultry, fish	165°F (74°C) for 15 seconds
Ground meats;	155°F (68°C) for 15 seconds
beef, pork, other meat or fish	
Injected meats,	155°F (68°C) for 15 seconds
brined ham and flavor-injected roasts	
Pork, beef, veal, lamb	
Steaks/Chops	145°F (63°C) for 15 seconds
Roasts	145°F (63°C) for 4 minutes
Elk, deer, bison, and rabbit	
Steaks	145°F (63°C) for 15 seconds
Ground	155°F (68°C) for 15 seconds
Roasts	145°F (63°C) for 4 minutes
Fish	
Whole, steaks or fillets	145°F (63°C) for 15 seconds
Ground, chopped or minced	155°F (68°C) for 15 seconds
Eggs	
Shell eggs, served immediately	145°F (63°C) for 15 seconds
Shell eggs cooked for later service	155°F (68°C) for 15 seconds
Commercially processed ready-to-eat foods	135°F (57°C)
Microwave cooked	165°F (74°C) let food stand for
eggs, poultry, fish, meat	2 minutes after cooking
Reheating cooked food	165°F (74°C)
Vegetables and fruits	135°F (57°C)
cooked for hot-holding	ND Food Code 140°F (60°C)

Food Service Minimum Internal Cooking Temperatures Use a calibrated thermometer to ensure accuracy.

Sources: "North Dakota Requirements for Food and Beverage Establishments" North Dakota Department of Health, 600 E Boulevard Avenue Dept 301, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0200, adopted 08-01-03. <u>ServeSafe Coursebook</u>, Third Edition, 2004 National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation, ISBN 1-58280-114-2.