



Preventing cross-contamination

Food poisoning bacteria can easily be transferred to high-risk foods. This is called cross-contamination. It can be controlled by:

- washing hands before and after handling raw meat and other high-risk foods.
- using colour-coded chopping boards and knives when preparing high-risk foods.
- washing hands after going to the toilet, sneezing, or blowing your nose and handling rubbish.

Preventing physical contamination

Physical contamination is when something which is not designed for eating ends up in your food. Physical contaminants include hair, seeds, pips, bone, plastic packaging, plasters, broken glass, flies and other insects, tin foil and baking paper, soil, and fingernails.

Physical contamination can be controlled by:

- food workers following personal hygiene rules
- keeping food preparation and serving areas clean
- checking deliveries for broken packaging
- thoroughly washing fruits and vegetables before preparation
- using tongs or gloves for handling food.

Temperature control

Delivery	Storage	Preparation	Service
<p>The temperature of high-risk foods must be checked before a delivery is accepted. The food should be refused if the temperatures are above the safe range.</p> <p>Refrigerated foods = 0-5°C Frozen foods = -22°C to -18°C</p>	<p>High-risk foods must be covered and stored at the correct temperature. Temperatures must be checked daily.</p> <p>Refrigerator = 0-5°C Freezer = -22°C to -18°C</p> <p>Unwashed fruit and vegetables must be stored away from other foods.</p>	<p>High risk-foods need to be carefully prepared to avoid cross-contamination. A food probe can be used to make sure that high-risk foods have reached a safe core (inside) temperature, which needs to be held for a minimum of two minutes.</p> <p>Core temperature = 70°C</p>	<p>Food needs to be kept at the correct temperature during serving to make sure it is safe to eat. Hot food needs to stay hot and cold food needs to stay chilled.</p> <p>Hot holding = 63°C minimum Cold holding = 0-5°C</p>