

Safe method:

Cooking safely – bacon, sausages and eggs

If you cook bacon, sausages or eggs, it is very important to handle them carefully and cook them properly.



Safety point	Why?
Follow the manufacturer's cooking instructions where appropriate.	The manufacturer has tried and tested safe cooking methods specifically for its products.
Preheat cooking equipment, e.g. grill, before cooking.	If you use equipment before it has preheated, food will take longer to cook. This means that the manufacturer's recommended cooking times might not be long enough.
Make sure you cook bacon and sausages thoroughly.	These products can contain harmful bacteria. If you cook them thoroughly this kills any bacteria.
Do not let raw food touch or drip onto cooked food e.g. when putting more food onto a grill.	Raw food can carry harmful bacteria, which could spread onto cooked food and stop it being safe to eat.

Think twice!

Staff should always wash their hands after handling raw meat or eggs and before handling ready-to-eat foods, such as bread.

Check it

It is very important to check that the food you sell is properly cooked.



Check in the centre of the sausage that the colour and texture has changed and it is piping hot.

Do you use this check? Yes No



Check that the colour and texture of bacon has changed and it is piping hot.

Do you use this check? Yes No



Check that the egg is cooked until the white is solid. (The safest option is to cook the egg until the yolk is also solid.)

Do you use this check? Yes No

Probes

You could also use a temperature probe to check that food is properly cooked.

See the 'Prove it – cooking' safe method for advice on using probes.



Your check

If you use a different check to those suggested on the front of this sheet, you will need to prove that it is safe. See the 'Prove it – cooking' safe method.

Write the details of your check in the table below.

If you use a probe, fill in the details of what you do in the 'Temperature probe' column. If you use another check different to those suggested on the front of this sheet, fill in the details in the 'Your check' column.

Product	Temperature probe Give details of the temperature you need to reach and for how long, e.g. 75°C for at least 30 seconds.	Your check Write the details of your check below.

Think twice!

If you cook sausages, bacon or eggs that you do not serve immediately, remember to keep them properly hot or chill them down safely. See the 'Bake off products, reheating and hot holding' safe method.

What to do if things go wrong

- If food is not cooked properly, cook it for longer and then check it again.

How to stop this happening again

- Repair or replace equipment.
- Review your cooking method. You might need to increase the time or temperature.
- 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

Remember, if you are handling any raw bacon, sausages or eggs, it is very important to read and complete the 'Raw meat, poultry and eggs' safe method, as well as this one.