

Checklist Restaurant Equipment Maintenance

Cooking appliances are an invaluable asset to restaurant owners and operators. To prolong the life of this equipment, employees should properly clean and maintain appliances regularly. Use this checklist to identify the daily, weekly and periodic cleaning and maintenance duties that will keep your cooking equipment in usable condition for years to come.

Ranges (Open, Closed or Fry Top)	YES	NO	NA
Daily: Open the top of the range and scrape off any incrusted food. Make sure the grids are cooled entirely before cleaning.			
Daily: Rub a closed-top range with heavy burlap or steel wool to remove cooked food under the flames, lids, rings and plates. Do so once the top plates have cooled. Never pour water directly onto a range top.			
Weekly: Remove open top grates and boil them in a grease solvent.			
Weekly: Clean clogged hob ports with a stiff wire to remove spilt foods. If this is not done, food can cause corrosion and uneven cooking.			
Periodically: Ask the gas company to check your hob adjustments and connections for efficiency.			
Periodically: Keep the hob valves greased using high temperature valve greases specific for that task.			
Periodically: Adjust the air shutters if flames have indistinct cones.			

Ovens (All Types)	YES	NO	NA
Immediately: Clean spills before food has time to carbonise and become a permanent stain.			
Daily: Wipe the lining and bottom of the oven with a damp cloth.			
Daily: Clean crumbs and encrusted food from around door openings to prevent broken door hinges and cracks, which allow heat to escape.			
Daily: Plan your roasting and baking to use 'receding' heat from other tasks. Plan baking so that you do not have to bring the oven to full heat multiple times per day.			
Daily: Be careful when cleaning to prevent caustic cleaning products from damaging the thermostat tube.			
Periodically: Make sure your oven is level, specifically looking for warped sides and bottom.			
Periodically: Contact the gas company to inspect your oven, including the hobs and thermostat. Make changes or repairs as needed.			

Grills (All Types)	YES	NO	NA
Daily: Wash drip shields and grips. Scrape the grid with a metal scraper and scrub the chamber and body front. Also, empty the grease pan and wash it with a solvent solution.			
Periodically: Clean the grill and examine the air shutters to make sure they are clear. Handle the ceramic refractor unit delicately.			
Periodically: Examine the flame on your grill. The flame should be clear with a distinct inner cone shape. Flames should also just wipe on the surface, not float or strike directly on the refractor elements.			

Deep Fryers	YES	NO	NA
Daily: Drain the fryer and filter fat into a commercial filter.			
Daily: Remove food crumbs from the fryer. Food build-up in the fryer can cause it to smoke.			
Daily: Check your inventory. Specific fats should be used for oily foods and foods with water-soluble flavours.			
Daily: Use a test kit to determine if fryer oil needs to be changed.			
Weekly: Wash the fryer with an alkaline solution and then thoroughly rinse it with water and a half a cup of vinegar. Then, dry the unit on with a cloth. Once it is clean, replenish the fat before lighting the gas hob again.			
Weekly: Pack fat around the tubes when using solid fat in a tube-type fryer. Set fat on the melt cycle when using open-pot fryers.			

Griddles	YES	NO	NA
Daily: Wipe the unit down with a grease-absorbent cloth.			
Daily: As food spills on the griddle, use a metal scraper or spatula to remove it.			
Daily: Polish cast-iron griddles with a griddle stone (avoid using on stainless steel or plate steel griddles).			
Daily: Empty and wash the grease receptacle at the end of each shift.			

Hot Food Storage Tables	YES	NO	NA
Daily: Clean up spilt food on stainless steel, nickel or chrome-plated parts and surfaces.			
Daily: Clean the unit with a non-abrasive metal polish on the stainless steel and plated parts, and wash the insets.			
Periodically: Check the temperature in different areas of the hot storage table to make sure the controls are in proper working order and heat is being distributed evenly.			

Steam Cookers and Kettles	YES	NO	NA	
Daily: Clean the food compartments, gaskets, shelves and supports. Add water and a mild detergent to the unit and use a brush to scrub. Then, drain the water and scrub the drain and valve with the brush. Rinse thoroughly before using again.				
Periodically: Replace worn gaskets as needed.				

Toasters	YES	NO	NA
Daily: Clean the outside surface and slanted guide when the unit is cool. Also clean the trays with warm water.			
Daily: Remove excess crumbs with a soft brush and use a damp cloth with all-purpose cleaner to clean steel surfaces.			
Daily: Turn the temperature down to the lowest setting to save gas when not using the appliance.			

Tilting Skillets or Braising Pans	YES	NO	NA	
Daily: When it is empty, turn off the hobs before adding water and a mild detergent to the unit. Allow leftover food particles to dissolve in the warm pan. Scrub the unit with a brush and then empty the contents into a waste disposal unit or rubbish bin.				
Daily: When the unit is not in use, turn the temperature down to the lowest setting to save gas.				