



# Food Safety Information



## Safe Minimum Internal Temperature Chart

Safe steps in food handling, cooking, and storage are essential in preventing foodborne illness. You can't see, smell, or taste harmful bacteria that may cause illness. In every step of food preparation, follow the four guidelines to keep food safe:

- **Clean**—Wash hands and surfaces often.
- **Separate**—Separate raw meat from other foods.
- **Cook**—Cook to the right temperature.
- **Chill**—Refrigerate food promptly.

Cook all food to these minimum internal temperatures as measured with a food thermometer before removing food from the heat source. For reasons of personal preference, consumers may choose to cook food to higher temperatures.

Product	Minimum Internal Temperature & Rest Time
<b>Beef, Pork, Veal &amp; Lamb</b> Steaks, chops, roasts	145 °F (62.8 °C) and allow to rest for at least 3 minutes
<b>Ground meats</b>	160 °F (71.1 °C)
<b>Ham, fresh or smoked (uncooked)</b>	145 °F (60 °C) and allow to rest for at least 3 minutes
<b>Fully Cooked Ham (to reheat)</b>	Reheat cooked hams packaged in USDA-inspected plants to 140 °F (60 °C); all others to 165 °F (73.9 °C).

Product	Minimum Internal Temperature
<b>All Poultry</b> (breasts, whole bird, legs, thighs, and wings, ground poultry, and stuffing)	165 °F (73.9 °C)
<b>Eggs</b>	160 °F (71.1 °C)
<b>Fish &amp; Shellfish</b>	145 °F (62.8 °C)
<b>Leftovers</b>	165 °F (73.9 °C)
<b>Casseroles</b>	165 °F (73.9 °C)

## Food Safety Questions?

### Call the USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline

If you have a question about meat, poultry, or egg products, call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline toll free at **1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854)**. The Hotline is open year-round



Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET (English or Spanish). Recorded food safety messages are available 24 hours a day. Check out the FSIS Web site at [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov).

Email questions to [MPHotline.fsis@usda.gov](mailto:MPHotline.fsis@usda.gov).

### AskKaren.gov

FSIS' automated response system can provide food safety information 24/7 and a live chat during Hotline hours.



Mobile phone users can access [m.askkaren.gov](http://m.askkaren.gov).

### PregunteleKaren.gov