

HS-24 Staff Meeting Safety Share

Subject: Grills Safety and Cleaning Tips

The best ways to clean the racks — and to prevent debris buildup. Plus, safety tips for outdoor cooking.

For a gas grill:

- Start by closing the lid, as you would with a self-cleaning oven
- Cover cooking grids with foil to help concentrate heat
- Turn on high for five to 10 minutes maximum; do not overheat
- When the grids are cool, use a brass-bristle brush to remove debris
- Wash with soap and water
- Clean off rust with vegetable oil
- Chipped grids cannot be repaired; do not attempt to paint them

For regular grill racks:

- Crumple a wad of aluminum foil
- Rub over the racks to remove bits of charred food or crud
- Wash racks in warm, soapy water

To prevent food from sticking to grill:

- Coat the racks with a thin layer of vegetable oil or use nonstick spray before you fire up (never spray on a hot grill)
- Store the spray can away from heat, which could cause contents to explode
- Remember to wipe racks after every use to prevent a buildup of gunk

8 Safety Tips for Cooking Outdoors

1. Never use gasoline, alcohol or kerosene to light a charcoal grill -- doing so could cause an explosion.
2. Do not add charcoal starter fluid to warm or hot coals -- flames could flare up.
3. Keep a fire extinguisher or a big jug or spray bottle filled with water nearby for fire emergencies.
4. Use heat-resistant cooking mitts and long-handled utensils to prevent burns.
5. Never wear flowing or loose garments when you grill -- the fabric could brush across the cooking area and catch fire.

6. Place the grill far away from picnic table and seating areas.
7. Unwashed racks can harbor bacteria that could contaminate food the next time you use the grill. Before you store the rack, clean it well; use a brass-bristle brush to remove all debris.
8. **Inspect brush frequently. Discard loose bristle brush immediately and do not use it again.** Loosen bristles may stick on the racks and then the foods, especially meats. It's hard to digest the bristles once swallowed.