

## Topic: Inspecting Kitchen Appliances

We know you would always watch for problems with your kitchen appliances at home – but who does that at work?

If your coffee or lunch rooms have small electrical appliances such as toaster ovens or microwaves, is someone responsible for performing regular preventative maintenance on them?

Do you know what to look for?

Would someone be looking for product recalls?

A Municipality had a fire in a toaster oven, which could have proven disastrous if the worker hadn't quickly put out the fire with a fire extinguisher.



### What are some of the things you should look for?

**Overloaded  
electrical  
outlet**



**Ground  
removed from  
electrical cord**



- Frayed electrical cords
- Broken seals around the microwave door
- Accumulation of crumbs or other food
- Outside is hot to touch
- Counter underneath is buckled from the heat
- Accumulation of combustible items on or around the appliance



There should always be a fire extinguisher located nearby, and correctly rated for electrical equipment. Never use water on an electrical fire.

For toaster fires, unplug the appliance (if safe to do so), then use a fire extinguisher or pour baking soda on it.

Never use sugar or flour to try and extinguish a fire as they can cause a small explosion.

Never use an extension cord with a microwave oven; plug it directly into the wall socket.

To minimize the risk of fire, only use microwave-safe containers or dishes.

Never use recycled products in microwave ovens, unless it is specifically labelled for microwave use. Recycled products, including paper towels, can contain minute particles of metal which can cause sparks and fires in some microwave ovens.

Microwave energy could burn the user if the door seals are faulty or if the protective mesh behind the glass door panel slips.

Do not use a microwave if the door does not close properly, or if it doesn't shut off when the door is opened.

If a microwave oven does catch fire, unplug it if safe to do so. Be prepared with a fire extinguisher, but if you leave the door closed the fire may extinguish itself due to lack of oxygen.

Faulty kitchen appliances can remain energized after use, creating a fire hazard by overheating nearby combustible items. Unplug kitchen appliances when not in use, including toaster, toaster ovens and coffee maker.

