

Doner kebabs

If not made hygienically, doner kebabs can pose a food safety risk for customers because some of the ingredients can allow the rapid growth of disease-causing bacteria. Food businesses must ensure the food they sell is safe and properly handled.

Making kebabs safely

Keep everything clean

- Wash hands in a proper hand washing facility whenever they are a likely source of contamination (such as after hanging a kebab block, after using the toilet.).
- Cover food in the refrigerator.

Control temperature

- It is easy to contaminate kebab ingredients such as hummus, tabouli and cheese. Only use such ingredients if they are properly refrigerated (at or below 5°C), packaged and labelled with date marks.
- If you thaw frozen kebab meat before cooking, thaw it under refrigeration.
- Keep fresh minced meat for making kebabs under refrigeration until ready for use. Refrigerate freshly made kebab meat while it is setting.
- Store potentially hazardous food, including dairy-based sauces, at or below 5°C. Check the temperature using a thermometer.
- The bacteria that cause food poisoning grow between 5°C and 60°C – the temperature danger zone. Potentially hazardous foods that have been in the temperature danger zone for more than four hours must be thrown out. Keep cold food in the fridge until you are ready to cook or serve it, and serve hot food steaming hot.
- Do not overload refrigerators as this reduces their cooling efficiency.

Cook thoroughly

- Start cooking the kebab immediately after removing it from cold storage.
 - Ensure meat sliced from the kebab is properly cooked. Once cooked, keep above 60°C until served. Use a thermometer to check temperatures.
 - Best practice is to use a second cook step by heating the cooked, kebab block. Any leftover kebab meat that has been fully cooked may be used the next day provided it is cooled to less than 21°C within two hours from when cooking stops, and then to 5°C or less within the next four hours.
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- Monitor temperatures with a probe thermometer. A quick way to bring the temperature down is to put the meat in the freezer.
 - Before serving the meat, reheat it until it is above 60°C.
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Prevent contamination

- Keep raw and cooked food separate.
 - Remember to wash your hands thoroughly in hot soapy water and dry them before preparing food and after touching raw meat, especially chicken, and other raw foods.
 - Thoroughly clean all utensils, equipment and surfaces after preparing raw food and before contact with other food.
 - Store raw meat, chicken and seafood at the bottom of the fridge so it can't drip onto other foods.
 - Keep pets and animals out of the kitchen.
 - Do not handle food if you have symptoms of a foodborne illness (see related factsheet [Health and hygiene requirements of food handlers](#)).
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More information

- Food Standards Australia New Zealand's [Safe Food Australia – A guide to the Food Safety Standards](#)
- [Listeria in food](#)
- Visit foodauthority.nsw.gov.au
- Email the Food Authority helpline at food.contact@dpi.nsw.gov.au
- Phone the Food Authority helpline on 1300 552 406

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