

Safety Of Accidentally **Thawed Food**

If your freezer stops, aceldentally thawed meats, poultry, ish, vegetables, and mixed dishes should be your first concern. These oods have a far greater risk of causing food-borne illness when accidentally thawed than do fruits and baked goods.

Two factors — temperature of the product and how long it has been thawing — are important in determining whether accidentally thawed meat, fish and poultry are safe to eat. Food that registers 40° F or below is generally considered safe If the food contains ice crystals it is probably safe for cooking or refreezing. But don't expect the food to possess the quality it had before thawing. If you do refreeze the food try to use it fairly soon.

If the food has an off-odor before or during cooking, spoilage has probably set in. Spoilage bacteria can grow at a temperature of 40° F, but the rate of growth is low. It 18 when foods are at a temperature above 40° F, for a few hours that the risk of poisoning sets in. Some bacteria double in number every 15 to 30 minutes in warmer temperatures.

The two types of bacteria responsible for most food-borne illness are Salmonellae and aureus. Staphlococcus Salmonellae can be destroyed by cooking food to an internal temperature at 165° F. However, toxins or poisons produced by Staphlococcus aureus are not destroyed by heat.

Ladies Have You **Heard?**

By Doris Thomas

Lancaster Extension **Home Economist**

To be on the safe side, keep perishable food and especially thawed, frozen foods below 40° F to prevent bacterial growth and potential food spoilage or foodborne illness.

Selecting Quality Produce

"Stop, Look, and Listen" is good advice for little folks learning to venture across the street and it's equally good advice for consumers learning to select top quality fruit and vegetables.

"Stop" at a farmer's market, roadside stand or produce counter displaying abundant supplies of home-grown produce and then look at individual items to tell quality or listen to the sounds they make.

'Listen" is the key word when choosing green or yellow snap beans; in fact, snap one to be sure. Fresh looking beans of good quality will be crisp and tender and will snap loud enough to be heard when broken between the fingers. Notice, too, that the name is snap beans . . . not string beans. Today's green and yellow beans have no string because plant breeders have now developed stringless bean varieties.

"Look" is the key word when choosing most other fresh fruits and vegetables. When choosing peaches, appearance is the best clue to quality. Pinching for ripeness only causes damage. Look at the background color to judge ripeness. Most mid- and lateseason peaches should have a golden yellow cast under the red blush. Your best bet is to pass up peaches with a green shade beneath a red blush.

Green is the right color when choosing peppers. Look for peppers with a medium to dark green color, a glossy sheen, relatively heavy weight for the size, with firm sides. Incidentally, these red peppers you sometimes see now in the store are just fully matured green peppers and peppers are sweet, not hot.

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Sewing expert to give seminar at Farm and Home Center

LANCASTER - Marjorie Arch Burns, one of the nation's outstanding authorities on home sewing and fashions, will present a one-day seminar in the auditorium of the Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster on Tuesday, August 21, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

In her presentation, Burns will provide an update on fashion and sewing_trends, details currently being used by noted designers, accessories to add your wardrobe so it looks new, plus many ideas and secrets for simple and successful sewing of all types of garments. She will also give a special presentation of the world's best and most professional timesaving techniques she knows.

The seminar is sponsored by the Lancaster County Cooperative Extension Service, which is an affirmative action, equal opportunity educational institution. Fee for the seminar is \$15 and includes lunch. To register send your check, made payable to the Agricultural Extension Service, to Doris W. Thomas, Extension Home Economist, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601.



Marjorie Arch Burns

Marjorie Arch Burns is independent. She does not represent any company in the sewing industry; therefore, she is free to express her own benefits about what is best on the market today. With her wealth of experience as an educator, speaker, author, and sewing expert she is truly the number one authority on sewing in America today.



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