

# HACCP-Based Standard Operating Procedures

---

## Cleaning and Sanitizing Food Contact Surfaces

**PURPOSE:** To prevent foodborne illness by ensuring that all food contact surfaces are properly cleaned and sanitized.

**SCOPE:** This procedure applies to foodservice employees involved in cleaning and sanitizing food contact surfaces.

**KEY WORDS:** Food Contact Surface, Cleaning, Sanitizing

### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Train foodservice employees on using the procedures in this SOP.
2. Follow State or local health department requirements.
3. Follow manufacturer's instructions regarding the use and maintenance of equipment and use of chemicals for cleaning and sanitizing food contact surfaces. Refer to Storing and Using Poisonous or Toxic Chemicals SOP.
4. Wash, rinse, and sanitize food contact surfaces of sinks, tables, equipment, utensils, thermometers, carts, and equipment:
  - Before each use
  - Between uses when preparing different types of raw animal foods, such as eggs, fish, meat, and poultry
  - Between uses when preparing ready-to-eat foods and raw animal foods, such as eggs, fish, meat, and poultry
  - Any time contamination occurs or is suspected
5. Wash, rinse, and sanitize food contact surfaces of sinks, tables, equipment, utensils, thermometers, carts, and equipment using the following procedure:
  - Wash surface with detergent solution.
  - Rinse surface with clean water.
  - Sanitize surface using a sanitizing solution mixed at a concentration specified on the manufacturer's label.
  - Place wet items in a manner to allow air drying.

# HACCP-Based Standard Operating Procedures

---

## **INSTRUCTIONS, continued:**

6. If a 3-compartment sink is used, set up and use the sink in the following manner:
  - In the first compartment, wash with a clean detergent solution at or above 43 °C or at the temperature specified by the detergent manufacturer.
  - In the second compartment, rinse with clean water.
  - In the third compartment, sanitize with a sanitizing solution mixed at a concentration specified on the manufacturer's label or by immersing in hot water at or above 77 °C for 30 seconds. Test the chemical sanitizer concentration by using an appropriate test kit.
  
7. If a dishwasher is used:
  - Check with the dishwasher manufacturer to verify that the information on the data plate is correct.
  - Refer to the information on the data plate for determining wash, rinse, and sanitization (final) rinse temperatures; sanitizing solution concentrations; and water pressures, if applicable.
  - Follow manufacturer's instructions for use.
  - Ensure that food contact surfaces reach a surface temperature of 160 °F or above if using hot water to sanitize.

## **MONITORING:**

Foodservice employees will:

1. During all hours of operation, visually and physically inspect food contact surfaces of equipment and utensils to ensure that the surfaces are clean.
  
2. In a 3-compartment sink, on a daily basis:
  - Visually monitor that the water in each compartment is clean.
  - Take the water temperature in the first compartment of the sink by using a calibrated thermometer.
  - If using chemicals to sanitize, test the sanitizer concentration by using the appropriate test kit for the chemical.
  - If using hot water to sanitize, use a calibrated thermometer to measure the water temperature. Refer to Using and Calibrating Thermometers SOPs.
  
3. In a dishwasher, on a daily basis:
  - Visually monitor that the water and the interior parts of the machine are clean and free of debris.
  - Continually monitor the temperature and pressure gauges, if applicable, to ensure that the machine is operating according to the data plate.
  - For hot water sanitizing dishwasher, ensure that food contact surfaces are reaching the appropriate temperature by placing a piece of heat sensitive tape on a smallware item or a maximum registering thermometer on a rack and running the item or rack through the dishwasher.

# HACCP-Based Standard Operating Procedures

---

- For chemical sanitizing dishwasher, check the sanitizer concentration on a recently washed food-contact surface using an appropriate test kit.

## **CORRECTIVE ACTION:**

1. Retrain any foodservice employee found not following the procedures in this SOP.
2. Wash, rinse, and sanitize dirty food contact surfaces. Sanitize food contact surfaces if it is discovered that the surfaces were not properly sanitized. Discard food that comes in contact with food contact surfaces that have not been sanitized properly.
3. In a 3-compartment sink:
  - Drain and refill compartments periodically and as needed to keep the water clean.
  - Adjust the water temperature by adding hot water until the desired temperature is reached.
  - Add more sanitizer or water, as appropriate, until the proper concentration is achieved.
4. In a dishwasher:
  - Drain and refill the machine periodically and as needed to keep the water clean.
  - Contact the appropriate individual(s) to have the machine repaired if the machine is not reaching the proper wash temperature indicated on the data plate.
  - For a hot water sanitizing dishwasher, retest by running the machine again. If the appropriate surface temperature is still not achieved on the second run, contact the appropriate individual(s) to have the machine repaired. Wash, rinse, and sanitize in the 3-compartment sink until the machine is repaired or use disposable single service/single-use items if a 3-compartment sink is not available.
  - For a chemical sanitizing dishwasher, check the level of sanitizer remaining in bulk container. Fill, if needed. “Prime” the machine according to the manufacturer’s instructions to ensure that the sanitizer is being pumped through the machine. Retest. If the proper sanitizer concentration level is not achieved, stop using the machine and contact the appropriate individual(s) to have it repaired. Use a 3-compartment sink to wash, rinse, and sanitize until the machine is repaired.