



# MICROWAVE OVEN SAFETY

*All countertop microwave ovens must be placed at eye level or below, at least 3 ft from any combustible material, and away from all objects that prevent air circulation or block air vents. Ovens must be plugged directly into an outlet; gang plugs or extension cords must not be used.*

*Ovens used for laboratory operations cannot be used for food preparations. Call EH&S at 561-297-3129 for further information.*

## Microwave Oven Operating Instructions

- Read any warning messages, instructions, operating procedures and safety precautions. **Not all microwave ovens are alike.**
- Never operate the unit when it is empty or use it for storage.
- Do not operate an oven if the door does not close firmly or is bent, or if the seal, hinges, or latch are worn or broken.
- Never tamper with the safety interlock switches or the fuse.
- Make sure the safety mechanisms are in good working condition, and that the microwave automatically turns it off when the door is opened. **(Call EH&S 7-3129 to report a defective oven)**
- Do not stand directly against or in front of an oven for long periods.
- Never leave an operating microwave unattended!

## Microwave Oven Cooking Instructions

- Use the microwave only for food or beverages, or other standardized uses.
- Do not use metal edged bowls, metal plates or cups, tin foil, or metal twist ties in the oven. The metal can spark, damage the unit, and lead to a fire. **Use only microwave safe materials.**
- Read the cooking instructions on the package.
- Puncture cooking pouches and foods that have tight skins to release steam as they cook.
- Never use a brown paper bag for popping popcorn. It can catch fire.

## Microwave Oven Cleaning Instructions

- Clean the door and oven cavity with water and mild detergent.
- Do not use abrasives such as scouring pads.

## Microwave Oven Fire

- If you have a fire in the microwave, unplug the unit, leave the door shut and call the University Police at 561-297-3500 or 911.