

Canning in Electric Pressure Cookers

NOT SAFE FOR PRESSURE CANNING, BUT POSSIBLE FOR WATH BATH CANNING

Electric “multi-use” pressure cookers are all the rage these days, with good reason. One simple device can be used for many cooking applications, saving time and energy (as well as other benefits). Unfortunately, despite some manufacturers’ claims, electric pressure cookers are **not safe for pressure canning**. Besides the lack of certain physical attributes necessary for processing low-acid foods safely,* recent research has shown that electric pressure devices do not reach sufficiently high temperatures for long enough time periods to kill *Clostridium botulinum* spores. These spores, if not destroyed during processing, can produce the toxin that causes botulism, a potentially deadly disease.

It may be possible, however, to use an electric multi-cooker for **water bath canning** of high-acid foods, as long as the jars, standing upright on the rack, can be covered with 1-2” of water, the water can come to a full rolling boil and stay boiling for the entire time required by the recipe, and the lid can be applied (but not locked).

As for **Presto’s Digital Pressure Canner**, the manufacturer has claimed that the device meets the USDA’s guidelines for pressure processing. However, the research data for this digital canner has not been reviewed by the USDA or the NCHFP, and the USDA symbol used in some promotional materials is not an actual USDA seal and does not indicate USDA approval. Should you wish to use this device, Cooperative Extension recommends that you follow only the Presto manual for all processing directions, and contact them directly with any questions.

*For details on what qualifies a pressure cooker to be safe for canning, see our poster, “Pressure Cookers vs. Canners,” on our website here: https://ucanr.edu/sites/mfp_of_cs/files/361842.pdf.

See these publications for further information, or visit your local Cooperative Extension Office.
https://nchfp.uga.edu/publications/nchfp/factsheets/electric_cookers.html
<https://enewsletters.k-state.edu/youaskedit/2021/03/17/presto-digital-pressure-canner/>

Brought to you by the UCCE Master Food Preservers of El Dorado County
Website: https://ucanr.edu/sites/mfp_of_cs/
Helpline (530) 621-5506 • Email: edmfp@ucanr.edu
Visit us on Facebook and Twitter!