

Commercial Can Opener

Sonia is a nutritionist at ABCD Head Start in Boston, Massachusetts. She will be demonstrating the safe procedures for operating a commercial can opener.

Because of the sharp blade using and cleaning a can opener can be dangerous. This illustration shows the parts of the can opener that you should know. Before using a can opener you need to follow a few general safety guidelines. Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry because they can get caught in the equipment. Before starting or changing food preparation tasks wash your hands.

Follow the food code and your standard operating procedures for glove use and be sure all equipment pans and utensils are clean and sanitized.

Now, Sonia is going to show you how to safely use the can opener to open a can of sweet potatoes.

First, clean the top of the can, then pull the crank up and lift the opener to a height where the can fits under the blade. Then place the can under the blade and push down firmly on the crank until the entire blade punctures the lid of the can.

Next, lower and turn the crank which will turn the can until the blade completely opens the can lid.

If the can does not turn when cranked the can may not be fully punctured. Repeat the previous step.

Use caution when handling the can, lid and blade. If your can opener is not working properly or if metal shavings are found in the food tell your supervisor immediately.

Never try to fix it yourself or ask someone who is not trained.

Safe cleaning directions

When you finish using the can opener clean and sanitize it to prevent cross-contamination. You can wash, rinse and sanitize by hand or put the can opener through the dishwasher. Remember to change gloves and wash hands between handling soiled equipment and handling clean equipment.

If using a dishwasher for cleaning be aware that the can opener may be very hot when it comes out. Let it cool for a few minutes before handling it, then check to make sure there is no food stuck between the blades or the handle. Also check the blade for wear. If the blade is dull or developing a groove replace it immediately.

Remove the old blade by unfastening it from the shaft then slide the new blade into place and fasten securely.

This concludes the can opener segment of the training please take a few minutes to answer the review questions provided by your supervisor. You should get a demonstration in addition to this training to ensure your safety when using the equipment.

If you have any questions or need more help to safely operate the equipment ask your supervisor. Remember that can openers may be different and you should always refer to the user's manual provided by the manufacturer for more specific instructions or ask your supervisor.

