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Love Your Oven This Holiday Season

WACO, Texas (Nov. 12, 2009) - Your kitchen is in constant overdrive during the holiday season. It's the time of year when something is most likely to go wrong with one of your major appliances. The most common appliance to break down is also the one you need the most – the oven.

This year, take a few minutes to show your oven some lovin' before it's too late. Doug Rogers, president of Mr. Appliance Corp., recommends these steps to get your oven in top shape and keep your holiday cooking season enjoyable.

1. Keep your oven clean.

- Use only non-abrasive cleaners. Check for old food in the gas vents or on the heating element, which can make the oven heat unevenly.
- Don't run the self-cleaning cycle before a big holiday dinner. Ovens have a tendency to fail during or soon after a self-cleaning cycle. If you can't wait to get rid of baked-on spills, spot clean with some common oven cleaner and a little elbow grease instead.

2. Take the oven's temperature.

- One of the most common oven problems involves the temperature on the dial not matching the actual temperature inside the oven. The easiest solution is to check the oven with a digital oven thermometer. (Keep in mind that oven temperatures do fluctuate throughout the heating cycle.)
- You can also buy a basic white cake mix and follow the directions exactly. If the cake is dry or undercooked, your oven temperature isn't set correctly.

3. Does your oven sweat?

- If moisture is appearing on the outside of your oven, it probably means you have a faulty gasket.
- Gaskets maintain proper cooking temperatures and should be replaced at the first sign of a leak.

4. Does the door shut tight?

- This could be a sign of bent or broken door hinges.
- A loose seal allows heat to escape and leads to meals improperly cooked and a higher utility bill.

5. Is the light on?

- It may not seem important, but your oven light can save cooking time and energy. Use the oven light to look inside rather than opening the door.
- If your light is out, replace the bulb or check the connection.

"Oven problems usually go unnoticed until the turkey is already inside," Rogers said. "Give yourself enough time before the big day to test your oven and call an appliance repair company for help, if needed. A few minutes spent checking your kitchen appliances could save your holiday season."

For more information on appliance repair and maintenance, Mr. Appliance® has an online repair manual at www.mrappliance.com. This manual provides an overview of common problems and how they can be fixed. But if the problem is more than you can handle, call a professional.

About Mr. Appliance®:

Mr. Appliance is North America's leading appliance repair franchise system. Established in 1996, its franchises provide full-service residential and light commercial appliance repair. *Mr. Appliance* has more than 150 locations throughout the United States and Canada and is consistently ranked among the top home service franchises by Entrepreneur magazine and other industry experts. *Mr. Appliance* is a subsidiary of The Dwyer Group, Inc. For more information, visit www.mrappliance.com.