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Love Your Oven This Holiday Season

WACO, Texas (Dec. 9, 2008) – Is extra holiday cooking threatening to give your bakery box a heat stroke? It's time to give your oven some lovin' and celebrate Oven Appreciation Week.

Holiday cooking can take a toll on your major appliances, especially the one you depend on to cook the turkey, bake the pies and keep everything else warm until it's time to eat. "Ovens are more likely to break down during the holiday season due to overuse," said Doug Rogers, president of Mr. Appliance Corp. "It's important to take extra care of your oven, or you could be left feeling half-baked at your next holiday party."

Here are a few simple tips from *Mr. Appliance* to keep your oven warm all winter long.

1. Start Spring cleaning a little early.

- Wash oven racks by hand unless the owner's manual specifically states they are dishwasher-safe.
- Use non-abrasive cleaners to wash down the inside.
- Check for old food in the gas vents or on the heating element, which can make the oven heat unevenly.
- If you run your oven's self-cleaning cycle, remember to open doors and windows to help with ventilation.

2. Protect your oven and your pocketbook.

- Leave the oven door closed while food is cooking. The more you open it to check on cooking food, the more heat you let escape, and the harder your oven has to work to stay heated.
- If you're cooking a dish that has a long cook time, such as a turkey, put the dish in as the oven is heating up. Then turn the oven off just before the dish is done and allow residual heat to finish the job.

3. Make sure your oven can take the heat.

- One of the most common problems involves the temperature on the dial not matching the actual temperature inside the oven.
- To test for an accurate temperature, 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.
- 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.
- If your oven won't close all the way, it may have bent or broken door hinges. A loose seal allows heat to escape and leads to improperly-cooked meals and a higher utility bill.

If you really want to cut your oven some slack, give it a short vacation. Dust off your microwave or toaster oven or pull out your old crock pot recipes for a week.

For more information on appliance repair and maintenance, *Mr. Appliance* has an online repair manual at www.mrappliance.com with common problems and solutions. But if the problem is more than you can handle, call a professional.

About Mr. Appliance®:

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