

## Tips for Cold Holding

As temperatures rise with coming months, it will be harder to maintain safe cold holding temperatures. Warmer ambient air temperatures inside of kitchens will cause refrigeration units to fail. Here are some tips to help keep those temperatures down.

### Refrigerated Prep Tables

- Close all gaps with tight fitting pans and dividers to keep cold air from escaping.
- Don't over fill pans in the make table.
  - Make backup pans and store them in the refrigerator.
- Metal pans will keep food 2 degrees colder than plastic pans.
- Close the prep table lid during slower hours.
- Place lids on individual items that are used less.



### Refrigerators

- Replace gaskets that are in poor repair.
- Don't block airflow by overcrowding shelves.
- Place bags of ice on top of TCS food.

### Ice baths

- Ensure that the cold line is at least level with the food line.
  - Ice baths should be half ice and half water. The water will allow pans to be fully submerged and increase surface contact.

### Walk-in coolers

- Cooler/freezer strip door curtains are a good idea for walk-in coolers and freezers that have high traffic.
- Consider adding a hand sink in the walk-in cooler and perform prep work in there.



### Routine Maintenance

- Routinely take food temperatures and train staff to know how to react when food temperatures aren't safe.
- Clean the condenser coils and get a Freon boost for refrigeration units
- Don't overwork units by setting them on the maximum coldness setting. On a scale of 1 to 9 (with 9 being the coldest) set refrigerators on a 6 or 7. Leaving a refrigerator on the maximum setting may cause condenser coils to ice over.

## Courtesy Inspections

The Tulsa Health Department strives to build positive working relationships with businesses throughout Tulsa County. One of the ways that we achieve this is by performing courtesy inspections. A courtesy inspection is a scheduled inspection with your health inspector that is unrecorded. This visit will allow you to gauge how well your facility would perform during a real inspection. It also serves as a great time to ask questions and develop or improve processes. If your facility can benefit from a courtesy inspection, please feel free to contact your inspector to schedule one.

## Scam Alert!

The Tulsa Health Department will never ask you for your credit card number over the phone. There have been reports of businesses being contacted for payment of licenses over the phone. THD only accepts payment through the mail and in person.

## City License Fee Increase

The City of Tulsa license fee will increase from \$145 to \$155. This will be effective for the upcoming license renewal that is mailed out in May.

