

# if your **microwave** could talk

Here's what it would tell you to do to keep it humming along.

## Microwave-safe dishes are always a good idea.

Glass and ceramic dishes that aren't microwave-safe absorb the machine's energy instead of letting it pass through to the food, so they can crack or become too hot to touch.

## Close my door gently, please.

Slamming it could blow the internal fuse so the machine won't turn on. Then you'd have to call a pro to replace the fuse. Bummer.

## Use that popcorn button!

When you press a button designated for a certain food, such as popcorn or a frozen meal, you activate the machine's humidity sensor. This adjusts an item's cooking time based on the amount of steam it releases, leaving you with a perfectly done dish.

## I'm easy to clean. I promise.

If you've let splatters sit too long, mix 2 tablespoons of lemon juice with 1 cup of water in a microwave-safe bowl. Heat and let boil for three minutes; keep the door closed for five minutes more. The steam makes gunk a cinch to wipe away, and the lemon zaps odors.

## Cover with plastic or a paper towel? It depends.

If you're cooking something that you want to stay moist—like chicken or veggies—loosely shield the dish with microwave-safe plastic wrap. But use a paper towel for foods that should stay drier or crisp, like pizza or fries.

## Even chefs nuke stuff!



**Asparagus** "Sprinkle with water, salt, and a drizzle of olive oil, then heat on high for 30-second intervals."

—Geoffrey Zakarian, chef at New York City's The Lambs Club



**Chocolate chips** "Heat on low for a minute or two until melted, then use for chocolate-dipped strawberries."

—Ellie Krieger, author of *Small Changes, Big Results*



**Potatoes** "I like to 'power bake' them whole for about six minutes on high."

—Alex Guarnaschelli, host of Food Network's *Alex's Day Off*

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