

# PRESTO®

Dehydro™ digital electric

# Food Dehydrator

- Dehydrates fruits, vegetables, and herbs and spices. Great for jerky and fruit rolls too.
- Digital temperature control and timer for precise drying time and temperatures.
- Includes six drying trays, two fruit roll sheets, and two nonstick mesh screens for small foods.



Estas instrucciones también están disponibles en español.  
Para obtener una copia impresa:


- Descargue en formato PDF en [www.GoPresto.com/espanol](http://www.GoPresto.com/espanol).
- Envíe un correo electrónico a [contact@GoPresto.com](mailto:contact@GoPresto.com).
- Llame al 1-800-877-0441, oprima 2 y deje un mensaje.



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## INSTRUCTIONS

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Form 4038-170B

This is an  Listed appliance. The following important safeguards are recommended by most portable appliance manufacturers.

### IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDS

To reduce the risk of personal injury or property damage when using electrical appliances, basic safety precautions should always be followed, including the following:

1. Read all instructions.
2. Do not touch hot surfaces. Use handles or knobs.
3. To protect against electrical shock, do not immerse cord, plug, or the dehydrator base in water or other liquid.
4. Close supervision is necessary when any appliance is used by or near children.
5. Unplug from outlet when not in use and before cleaning. Allow to cool before putting on or taking off parts, and before cleaning the appliance.
6. Do not operate any appliance with a damaged cord or plug or in the event the appliance malfunctions or has been damaged in any manner. Return the appliance to the Presto Factory Service Department for examination, repair, or electrical or mechanical adjustment.
7. The use of accessory attachments not recommended by the appliance manufacturer may cause injuries. Use only genuine Presto® dehydrating trays and accessories with this dehydrator.
8. Do not let cord hang over edge of table or counter or touch hot surfaces.
9. Do not use outdoors.
10. Do not place on or near a hot gas or electric burner or in a heated oven.
11. Never use this appliance to dehydrate foods that contain alcohol or have been marinated in alcohol.
12. Do not use appliance for other than intended use.

## SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS

THIS APPLIANCE IS FOR HOUSEHOLD USE ONLY.

## Important Cord Information

This appliance has a polarized plug (one blade is wider than the other). To reduce the risk of electric shock, this plug is intended to fit into a polarized outlet only one way. If the plug does not fit fully into the outlet, reverse the plug. If it still does not fit, contact a qualified electrician. Do not attempt to modify the plug in any way.

A short power supply cord is provided to reduce the risk of becoming entangled in or tripping over a longer cord. Extension cords may be used if care is properly exercised in their use.

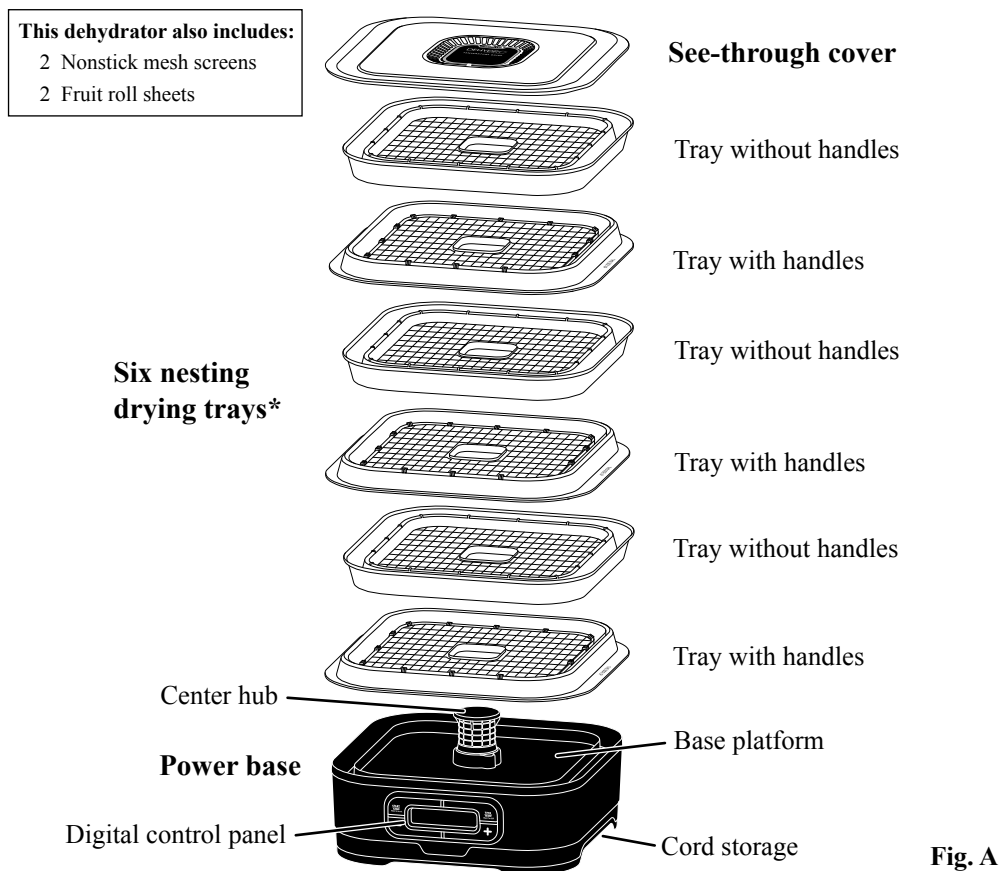
If an extension cord is used, the marked electrical rating of the extension cord should be at least as great as the electrical rating of the appliance. The extension cord should be arranged so that it will not drape over the countertop or tabletop where it can be pulled on by children or tripped over unintentionally.

Connect the power supply cord to a 120VAC electrical outlet only. **NOTE:** As with many new products, you may notice a distinct odor when you first remove the dehydrator from the carton. This is normal and will dissipate.

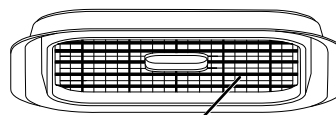
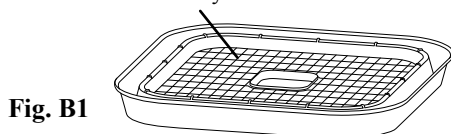
## Before First Use

Become familiar with the food dehydrator (Fig. A) and read and follow the instructions carefully. As received, your food dehydrator will be in the storage position. Remove the dehydrator trays, mesh screens, fruit roll sheets, and cover from the base and wash them according to the "Care, Cleaning, and Storage" instructions on page 11.

**For dehydrating, stack trays onto base as shown.**



Place food on side of tray without raised ribs.



Raised ribs should be facing down during use.

\*Additional trays sold separately (see page 11).

## How to Assemble and Load Trays for Dehydrating

1. Remove trays and cover from unit.
2. Turn over power base and unwrap cord.
3. Set base, right side up, on a dry, level surface. In order to function properly, the dehydrator must have sufficient airflow; therefore, be sure the base and cover vents are not obstructed at any time. Never place dehydrator on carpet, a towel, or newspaper.
4. Each tray has raised ribs on one side. Food goes on the side of the tray without raised ribs (Fig. B1, page 2). Feel for the raised ribs to ensure you have the tray properly positioned before loading it with food. The raised ribs should always be facing down during use (Fig. B2, page 2).
5. Select a tray with handles. Set the tray on the counter with the words on the handle “THIS SIDE UP” facing up. Begin loading tray with a single layer of food. Do not place food over the center hole.
6. Place loaded tray onto power base. The first tray placed onto the power base **MUST** have handles (Fig. A, page 2).  
**NOTE:** A minimum of two trays is needed to operate the dehydrator.
7. Select a tray without handles and set it on the counter with raised ribs facing down. Load tray with food and stack tray without handles onto tray with handles.
8. Continue filling and stacking trays, alternating trays with handles and without handles (Fig. A, page 2).
9. Place see-through cover over stacked trays. Position cover so “THIS SIDE UP” on the handles is facing up.
10. Plug cord into a 120VAC electrical outlet only and begin dehydrating. See pages 5 through 10 for dehydrating information for specific foods.

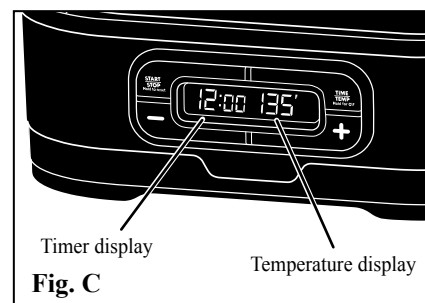
## How to Use the Digital Control

The digital control (Fig. C) allows for easy selection of dehydration temperature and time. In addition, it will automatically shut off the dehydrator when the selected time has elapsed.

### To Adjust Temperature

1. Press the TIME/TEMP button and the temperature in the display window will begin to flash (if the time flashes, press the TIME/TEMP button again).
2. Press the + or – buttons to select the desired temperature. Hold the buttons down to change the temperature rapidly. The temperature range for this dehydrator is 90° to 165°F (32° to 74°C).

**NOTE:** To convert from Fahrenheit to Celsius, hold down the TIME/TEMP button.



### To Set Timer (30 minutes to 48 hours)

1. Press the TIME/TEMP button and 00:00 will begin to flash (if the temperature flashes, press the TIME/TEMP button again).  
**NOTE:** If --:-- appears, the unit is in the Count Up mode. Hold down the START/STOP button to reset to 00:00.
2. Press the + or – buttons until the desired time is displayed. The time will change in 30-minute increments. Hold the buttons down to change the time rapidly. To reset the time to 00:00, hold down the START/STOP button.
3. Once you have the desired time and temperature set, press the START/STOP button to turn the dehydrator on. At any time, you can adjust the time or temperature by using the TIME/TEMP, +, and – buttons. You can stop the dehydrator at any time by pressing the START/STOP button.
4. The dehydrator will automatically shut off after the set time has expired and 00:00 will flash until you press the START/STOP button. When this occurs, check the food for dryness. If dehydration is complete, remove food from dehydrator. If additional drying time is needed, follow the preceding steps to continue dehydrating.

### To Use Count Up Timer (up to 48 hours)

1. If START/STOP is pressed with 00:00 showing on the timer display, the dehydrator will turn on and the unit will begin counting up in seconds for the first minute. After 59 seconds, the time is displayed in hours and minutes (HH:MM).
2. At any time, the temperature can be adjusted using the + or – buttons.  
**NOTE:** The time is not adjustable when the timer is counting up.
3. At any time, you can stop the dehydrator by pressing the START/STOP button. To reset the time to 00:00, hold down the START/STOP button.
4. The unit will automatically shut off after 48 hours.

## How to Use the Nonstick Mesh Screens

The flexible mesh screens fit into the dehydrator trays to keep foods that get very small when dried, such as herbs, berries, and carrots, from falling through the tray grates. The screens may also be used when drying foods that stick to the grates, such as bananas and tomatoes.

Position the mesh screen on the dehydrator tray. Then place the food you want to dry on the mesh screen. Once the food is dehydrated, lift the mesh screen out of the tray using the cutouts on the side of the screen. Remove food. Bending the screen is helpful for removing foods that have a tendency to stick.

## How to Use the Fruit Roll Sheets

A fruit roll sheet should be used when making fruit rolls and strips from fresh, frozen, or canned fruit. Refer to pages 5 and 6 for instructions on making fruit rolls.

## General Dehydrating Information

- When selecting foods for drying, choose those that are at peak eating quality. Avoid overripe\* or immature fruits and vegetables. Remove any bruised or blemished parts.
- For even drying, cut food into uniform sizes, shapes, and thicknesses. Use a Presto® SaladShooter® slicer/shredder, food processor, or mandoline to aid in cutting uniform slices.
- Dehydration prevents microbial growth; however, chemical reactions caused by enzymes in fruits and vegetables can occur unless food is pretreated before drying. Pretreatment will prevent or minimize undesirable color and texture changes during drying and storage. See specific sections for recommended pretreatment.
- Drying times are highly variable depending on the type and amount of food, thickness, evenness of food pieces, number of trays used, humidity, air temperature, personal preference, and even the age of the plant at the time of harvesting. That is why throughout the book you will notice there is a range of average drying times. In some cases, you may need to, or prefer to, dry your foods for shorter or longer periods than those listed. For best results, begin checking your food at the beginning of the range listed in the instructions. You should then gauge how often you should recheck the food based on how the drying is progressing. With some foods, such as herbs, that may mean every 10 minutes, and with other foods, such as fruits, that may mean every 1 to 2 hours.
- Place foods in a single layer on the trays. Do not allow food to touch or overlap.
- When drying strong-smelling foods, such as onions and garlic, be aware that there will be a strong odor during the drying process. That odor may linger after drying has been completed.
- Individual pieces of food may not all dry at the same time. Foods that are appropriately dried should be removed before those that require additional drying. **Always check every tray for appropriately dried foods.** Allow dried pieces to cool and then place in a covered container.
- If one tray of food is finished before the others, remove the dried food and return the empty tray to the unit rather than rearranging the trays.
- This dehydrator can dry up to 12 trays\*\* of food. If drying more than 6 trays at a time, it is recommended that the top trays be rotated with the bottom trays halfway through the drying process. For instance, for 12 trays, rotating the top 6 trays with the bottom 6 trays provides the best results. Keep in mind, the first tray placed onto the base **MUST** have handles.
- Do not add fresh fruits and vegetables to a partially dried load. This will add moisture and increase the drying time.
- Allow for continuous drying. Do not unplug dehydrator in the middle of the drying cycle and resume drying at a later time as this may result in poor quality and/or unsafe food.
- **CAUTION!** For food safety, wash hands thoroughly prior to preparing food for dehydrating. Likewise, thoroughly clean all utensils, cutting boards, and counters that will be used for preparing food. Wash foods before preparing them for dehydrating.

**WARNING!** Do not spill or allow liquid or grease, including marinade, to drip into the base of the unit as it may damage the product and/or cause smoking. The center hub on the base platform must never be obstructed. If the unit smokes, unplug it immediately and discontinue use.

\* Slightly overripe fruits are acceptable for making fruit rolls.

\*\* Additional trays sold separately (see page 11).

## How to Dehydrate Fruit and Fruit Rolls

Dried fruits and fruit rolls are nutritious and portable snacks. Drying fruit intensifies the natural sweetness of the fruit because the moisture is removed.

### ***Selection and Preparation***

Select fruits that are at the peak of ripeness. Wash fruits to remove dirt and debris. There are many options when it comes to drying fruit and personal preference should be your guide. Fruits can be sliced, halved, or left whole (if small); peeled or unpeeled; pretreated or left untreated. Fruits that are sliced thin and peeled will dry the fastest. Fruits left whole will require the most drying time.

Slice fruit uniformly and in pieces about ¼ inch thick. Fruits that are left whole, such as blueberries, cranberries, and grapes, should be dipped in boiling water for 30 to 60 seconds and then plunged in ice water to crack the skin. This procedure will reduce the drying time.

### ***Pretreatment***

Many fruits will darken quickly once they are peeled and/or cut and will continue to darken even after the fruit is dried. This is due to the exposure of the natural enzymes in some fruits to air. There are several pretreatment options to prevent this discoloration. Pretreatment is not necessary but is recommended to preserve color and texture of the dried fruit. Some people may detect a slight flavor change with pretreated fruit. See the Fruit Drying Guide on page 7 to determine which fruits will benefit from pretreatment. You may want to try the different options and see which you prefer:

**Ascorbic acid (Vitamin C)**—Ascorbic acid, available in tablet or powdered form, is available at drugstores. Mix 2½ tablespoons of powdered ascorbic acid in 1 quart cold water. Vitamin C tablets (six 500 mg tablets equal 1 teaspoon ascorbic acid) should be crushed before mixing with water. Place cut fruit, such as bananas, peaches, apples, or pears, in mixture and soak for 10 minutes. Remove fruit and drain well before placing on drying trays.

**Ascorbic acid mixtures**—These commercially available products, such as Mrs. Wages Fresh Fruit Preserver,\* are a combination of ascorbic acid and sugar and are commonly used for fresh fruits and for canning and freezing. Follow manufacturer's directions for use of these mixtures.

**Lemon juice**—Mix equal parts lemon juice and cold water. Place cut fruit in solution and soak for 10 minutes. Remove fruit and drain well before placing on drying trays.

Place pieces of fruit on dehydrator trays in a single layer, close together but not touching or overlapping. Refer to the Fruit Drying Guide on page 7 for suggested preparation, pretreatment, and drying times. Dry fruit at 135°F (57°C).

### ***Determining Dryness***

Refer to the Fruit Drying Guide and begin checking the fruit at the beginning of the average drying time range. Remove a few pieces of fruit from each dehydrator tray and allow to cool to room temperature. Fruits are acceptably dry when they are soft and pliable, but not sticky. Fruit folded in half should not stick together. Apple and banana slices can be dried until crisp, if desired. If fruits seem to have a lot of moisture remaining, recheck every 1 to 2 hours. If fruits appear to be almost done, check again in 30 minutes. Always check fruits from each tray.

### ***Conditioning***

After drying, allow fruit to cool for 30 minutes to 1 hour before packaging. Dried fruits may have uneven amounts of moisture remaining because of differences in the size of various pieces. Although fruit appears to be dry, there may still be moisture remaining in some of the individual pieces. Conditioning is a procedure that can be used to more evenly distribute moisture, reducing the chance of mold growth, and allows you to determine if you've removed enough moisture before storing. To condition, place the pieces of fruit loosely in a clean plastic or glass container and seal and let stand for 1 week. This will allow drier pieces of fruit to absorb excess moisture that may be present in other pieces. Daily shake the jar to separate the pieces and look for condensation. If condensation develops, remove the fruit and dehydrate for additional time. After conditioning, follow "Packaging and Storing Dried Food" information on page 11.

### ***Uses***

Dried fruits make great snacks. They can also be added to trail mixes, cereals, muffins, breads, and other baked products. Dried fruit can be used as is or softened prior to use. To soften dried fruit, submerge in boiling water and soak for 5 minutes or place fruit in a steaming basket over a pot of boiling water and steam for 5 minutes or until fruit is plumped.

## Fruit Rolls (Leather)

Fruit rolls (or leathers) are made by drying a thin layer of puréed fruit on a flat surface. Once dried, the fruit layer is pulled from the surface and rolled. The term leather derives from the leather-like texture of the puréed fruit once it is dried.

\*Mrs. Wages is a registered trademark of Kent Precision Foods Group, Inc. Presto is not affiliated with this company.

Almost any fruit or combination of fruit can be puréed and dried for fruit rolls. The quality of the fruit roll depends on whether the fruit has a low or high amount of the naturally occurring starch called pectin. Fruits that have a high amount of pectin will bond together in a solid sheet and easily peel, while fruits that have little pectin will flake and crack rather than peel. When using fruits low in pectin, add another fruit that is high in pectin to improve the texture of the roll. Fruits naturally high in pectin are apples, apricots, blueberries, cranberries, figs, grapes, peaches, pears, pineapples, and plums. Fruits low in pectin include cherries, citrus fruits, raspberries, and strawberries. When using a low pectin fruit with a high pectin fruit, use equal parts of each to produce the best results.

### ***Preparation***

Use a Presto® Fruit Roll Sheet to prepare fruit rolls. Apply a thin layer of vegetable oil or no-stick cooking spray to the fruit roll sheet. **CAUTION!** If using cooking spray, be sure to spray away from the dehydrator base, as spray is flammable.

Use about 1½ cups of puréed fruit for each fruit roll sheet.

Select ripe or slightly overripe fruit and remove any bruised areas. Wash fruit and remove peel, seeds, and stems. Cut fruit into chunks and, using a food processor or blender, purée until smooth (applesauce consistency). To get the puréeing process started, you may need to add approximately 1 tablespoon of fruit juice or water.

If desired, fruit can be pretreated to preserve its natural color. Add 1½ teaspoons of lemon juice to each 1½ cups puréed fruit. See the Fruit Drying Guide on page 7 to determine which fruits will benefit from pretreatment.

The natural sweetness of fruit is intensified with drying. However, if your preference is for a sweeter fruit roll, you can add honey, maple syrup, corn syrup, or sugar to the puréed fruit. Try different amounts of sweeteners, starting with 1 tablespoon for each 1½ cups of fruit purée, to find your preference. Fruit with sweeteners added will take longer to dry than fruit that is not sweetened.

Canned fruit can also be used to easily make fruit rolls. Drain juice from fruit, saving juice for later use. Place fruit in food processor or blender and purée until smooth. Applesauce can be used directly from the container.

For frozen fruit, thaw and purée until smooth.

While lightly oiled fruit roll sheet is sitting on the counter, pour puréed fruit onto it. Spread with a spatula to form a uniform layer about ¼ inch thick. Position filled fruit roll sheet on dehydrator tray and then place tray onto power base, being careful not to spill the fruit purée onto the base. Set temperature to 135°F (57°C) and begin drying. Average drying time for all fruit rolls is 4 to 7 hours.

### ***Determining Dryness***

Acceptably dried fruit rolls will be slightly tacky to the touch, but will not indent when touched in the center. Begin checking the fruit roll after 4 hours of drying. If drying more than one fruit roll, be sure to check all of the trays. If additional drying time is needed, recheck every 30 minutes.

While slightly warm, starting from the outer edge, carefully peel the fruit roll from the sheet. Loosely roll in plastic wrap or waxed paper and follow “Packaging and Storing Dried Food” information on page 11. For immediate enjoyment, cut in strips or roll and cut into serving pieces.

**NOTE:** Remove fruit rolls from sheets prior to cutting them.

## Fruit Drying Guide

### Dry fruit at 135°F (57°C).

Drying times are highly variable and dependent on the type and amount of food, thickness, evenness of food pieces, humidity, air temperature, personal preference, and age of the plant at the time of harvesting.

<b>Fruit</b>	<b>Preparation</b>	<b>Pretreatment</b>	<b>Average Drying Time</b>
Apples	Peel, if desired, core, and cut in rings or slices, 1/8" to 1/4" thick.	Ascorbic acid, ascorbic acid mixture, or lemon juice.	4–9 hours
Apricots	Cut in half, remove pit, and cut in quarters or 1/4" thick slices.	See apples.	8–16 hours
Bananas	Peel and cut into 1/4" thick slices.	See apples.	7–12 hours
Blueberries	Remove stems. Dip in boiling water for 30 to 60 seconds and then plunge in ice water to crack the skin.	None	9–17 hours
Cherries	Remove stems and pit. Cut in half, chop, or leave whole.	None	15–23 hours
Cranberries	Remove stems. Dip in boiling water for 30 to 60 seconds and then plunge in ice water to crack the skin.	None	10–18 hours
Figs	Remove stems. Small figs can be left whole. Otherwise, cut in half. Dip whole figs in boiling water for 30 to 60 seconds and then plunge in ice water to crack the skin.	None	8–15 hours
Grapes	Leave whole or cut in half. Dip whole grapes in boiling water for 30 to 60 seconds and then plunge in ice water to crack the skin.	None	13–21 hours
Kiwi	Peel and cut into 1/4" to 3/8" thick slices.	None	4–6 hours
Nectarines	Cut in half and remove pit. May also quarter or slice 1/4" thick.	See apples.	6–10 hours (slices) 36–48 hours (halves or quarters)
Peaches	Peel if desired. Cut in half and remove pit. May also quarter or slice 1/4" thick.	See apples.	6–10 hours (slices) 36–48 hours (halves or quarters)
Pears	Peel, core, and slice 1/4" thick.	See apples.	7–13 hours
Pineapple	Peel, core, and slice 1/4" thick.	None	7–11 hours
Plums/Prunes	Halve or quarter and remove pit.	None	8–15 hours
Rhubarb	Trim and discard leaves. Cut stalk into 1/4" slices.	None	6–9 hours
Strawberries	Remove the leafy crown. Halve or slice 1/4" thick.	None	6–12 hours

## Drying Vegetables

Dry vegetables at 125°F (52°C). Vegetables dry much faster than fruits. At the end of the drying period, moisture loss is rapid. As a result, vegetables need to be checked often towards the end of the drying time to prevent overdrying. Food turns brown when it is overdried.

When drying smaller vegetables, such as peas or carrots, it is recommended that you place them on a mesh screen on the tray. A mesh screen will help prevent smaller foods from falling through the grates in the tray during dehydration. See information on page 4.

### ***Selection and Preparation***

Wash vegetables to remove dirt and debris. Trim vegetables to remove fibrous or woody portions or bruised and decayed areas, peel, and slice using the preparation information found on the Vegetable Drying Guide on page 8. Slice or cut vegetables into pieces that are uniform in size. See guide for pretreatment information on specific vegetables.

### ***Pretreatment***

The process of blanching involves subjecting vegetables to a high enough temperature to deactivate the enzymes. Blanching is necessary to stop the naturally occurring enzymes from causing loss of color and flavor during drying and storage. Blanching also relaxes

the tissue walls so moisture can more readily escape during drying and enter during rehydrating. Blanching can be done in water or steam. Water blanching causes a greater loss of nutrients but is faster than steam blanching and achieves a more even heat penetration.

**Steam blanching**—Fill a deep pot with water and bring to a boil. Place vegetables loosely in a basket or colander that will allow steam to freely circulate around the vegetables. Do not fill basket or colander with more than a 2½-inch layer of vegetables. Position the basket or colander in the pot, making sure it does not contact the boiling water. Cover with a close fitting lid. Steam for the time indicated in the Vegetable Drying Guide.

**Water blanching**—Fill a large pot ⅔ full with water. Cover and bring to a boil. Place vegetables loosely in a basket or colander and submerge in the boiling water. Cover and blanch for the time indicated in the Vegetable Drying Guide. Water should return to a boil in less than 1 minute. If not, too many vegetables were added to the basket; reduce the amount of vegetables added for the next batch. Water blanch for the time indicated in the Vegetable Drying Guide.

Immediately after steam or water blanching, dip the vegetables in cold water to quickly cool them. Drain the vegetables and arrange them in a single layer on the dehydrator trays. Refer to the Vegetable Drying Guide for drying times.

### ***Determining Dryness***

Refer to the Vegetable Drying Guide and begin checking the vegetables at the beginning of the average drying time range. Remove a few pieces of vegetables from each dehydrator tray and allow to cool to room temperature. Test for dryness by breaking the pieces in half. Most vegetables will be crisp when appropriately dried and will break easily. If vegetables do not break easily, additional drying time is needed. If vegetables seem to have a lot of moisture remaining, recheck every 1 to 2 hours. If vegetables appear to be almost done, check again in 30 minutes. Always check vegetables from each tray.

Follow “Packaging and Storing Dried Food” information on page 11.

## **Vegetable Drying Guide** **Dry vegetables at 125°F (52°C).**

Drying times are highly variable and dependent on the type and amount of food, thickness, evenness of food pieces, humidity, air temperature, personal preference, and age of the plant at the time of harvesting.

<b>Vegetable</b>	<b>Preparation</b>	<b>Pretreatment (blanching)</b>	<b>Average Drying Time</b>
Asparagus	Cut into 1" pieces.	Water 3½–4½ minutes Steam 4–5 minutes	6–8 hours
Beans, green or wax	Remove ends and strings. Cut into 1" pieces.	Water 2 minutes Steam 2–2½ minutes	6–11 hours
Beets	Cook until tender. Cool and peel. Cut into shoestring strips ⅛" thick.	None—Already cooked	4–7 hours
Broccoli	Cut into serving pieces.	Water 2 minutes Steam 3–3½ minutes	4–7 hours
Carrots	Peel and cut off ends. Cut into ⅛" to ¼" slices.	Water 3 minutes Steam 3–3½ minutes	4–10 hours
Cauliflower	Cut into serving pieces.	Water 3–4 minutes Steam 4–5 minutes	5–8 hours
Celery	Trim ends. Cut into ¼" slices.	Water 2 minutes Steam 2 minutes	2–4 hours
Corn, cut	Husk and remove silk. Blanch and cut corn from cob.	Water 1½ minutes Steam 2–2½ minutes	6–10 hours
Mushrooms	Wash and slice ⅝" thick.	None	2–6 hours
Onions	Remove outer skin. Cut off top and root ends. Cut into ¼" slices.	None	3–7 hours
Peas	Shell.	Water 2 minutes Steam 3 minutes	5–9 hours
Peppers and pimientos	Remove stem, core, and inner partitions. Cut into ¼" strips.	None	5–10 hours
Potatoes, white or sweet	Peel and cut into ¼" slices.	Water 5–6 minutes Steam 6–8 minutes	5–9 hours
Summer squash and zucchini	Trim ends. Cut into ¼" slices.	Water 1½ minutes Steam 2½–3 minutes	4–6 hours
Tomatoes	Peel, if desired. Cut into sections ¾" wide.	None	6–11 hours



## Uses

Dried vegetables have a unique flavor and texture and are best used as ingredients for soups, stews, casseroles, and sauces rather than stand-alone side dishes. When using in soups, dried vegetables can be added without soaking. Dried vegetables used for other purposes need to be soaked before cooking. To soak, start with 1½ to 2 cups of boiling water for every 1 cup of dried vegetables. Soak for 1 to 2 hours or until vegetables have returned to nearly the same size they were before dehydrating. Additional water should be added as needed during the soaking process. After soaking, simmer the vegetables in the soaking water until tender, allowing excess water to evaporate.

## Drying Herbs

Drying fresh herbs allows you to have a ready supply of economical herbs that are available to use all through the year. To retain the best flavor of your herbs, it is recommended that you dry them at the lowest temperature setting, 95°F (35°C).

### Selection and Preparation

Pick herbs for drying just before the flowers first open. These herbs will be the most flavorful. The best time to pick herbs is in the early morning just after the dew has evaporated. Rinse leaves and stems in cool water to remove any dust or insects and then gently shake to remove excess water. Remove dead and bruised leaves or stems. Large leafed herbs, such as basil, sage, and mint, should be removed from their stems for faster drying. Smaller leafed herbs can be left on their stem and removed after drying. Placing the herbs on a mesh screen will help prevent them from falling through the grates in the tray during dehydration.

### Determining Dryness

Herbs are acceptably dry when they are crispy and crumble easily. Refer to the Herb Drying Guide below and begin checking the herbs at the beginning of the average drying time range. Remove a few herbs from each dehydrator tray and allow to cool to room temperature. If the herbs do not crumble easily, recheck every hour.

### Packaging and Storage

Dried leaves are best stored whole and then crumbled when needed. Follow “Packaging and Storing Dried Food” information on page 11.

## Uses

Most dried herbs are 3 to 4 times stronger than the fresh herbs; therefore, when using dried herbs in a recipe that calls for fresh herbs, use ¼ to ½ of the amount called for in the recipe.

### Herb Drying Guide Dry herbs at 95°F (35°C).

Herb	Average Drying Time
Basil leaves*	12–20 hours
Bay leaves	5–7 hours
Chives	9–15 hours
Cilantro leaves	6–8 hours
Dill leaves	3–5 hours
Fennel	3–5 hours
Marjoram leaves	9–12 hours

\*Break veins to speed drying.

Herb	Average Drying Time
Mint leaves	9–14 hours
Oregano leaves	9–12 hours
Parsley leaves	6–8 hours
Rosemary leaves	8–12 hours
Sage leaves	12–16 hours
Tarragon leaves	5–7 hours
Thyme leaves	4–6 hours

## Drying Meat/Poultry

Homemade jerky is a flavorful dried meat product that is especially popular with outdoor sports enthusiasts because it is light and easy to transport. Jerky can be made from most lean meat, including beef, pork, or venison,\*\* or poultry.

Whenever handling meat, basic food safety precautions need to be observed:

- Wash hands thoroughly before and after handling raw food.
- Keep product refrigerated or frozen until ready to use.
- Raw meat/poultry and its juice should be kept away from other foods. Wash cutting boards, utensils, counters, etc. with hot, soapy water after contact with raw meat. After washing, sanitize with a solution of 1 tablespoon chlorine bleach per gallon of water. Allow surface to air dry.
- Marinate meat/poultry under refrigeration. Discard marinade after meat is removed.
- Keep raw meat/poultry and dried jerky separate.

\*\*Venison or wild game meat that has been contaminated with entrails should not be used for making jerky.

**CAUTION!** The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recommends that meat/poultry be precooked prior to dehydrating or baked after dehydrating to reduce the risk of foodborne illness.

**WARNING!** Any liquid or grease, including marinade, that drips into the base of the unit may damage the product and/or cause smoking. **Meat/poultry strips should not be placed over the center hole or allowed to drape over the sides of the trays. Ground meat should be 93% lean.** If liquid or grease drips into the base and smoking occurs, unplug unit immediately and discontinue use.

### ***Preparing Jerky from Meat/Poultry Strips***

Select lean meats such as beef and venison sirloin, rump, and round cuts; pork loin and ham cuts; and poultry breast, thigh, and leg. Trim meat of visible fat, connective tissue, and gristle. Remove skin and fat from poultry. Freeze meat/poultry until firm, but not solid, to make slicing easier. Slice into strips that are ¼ inch thick, 1 inch wide, and 5 to 6 inches long. Slice across the grain for a more tender jerky or with the grain for a chewier jerky.

Flavor the meat/poultry strips by marinating in your own favorite marinade, a commercial marinade, or use the marinade recipe below. Place marinade and strips in a resealable plastic storage bag. Seal bag and shake to thoroughly coat the strips. Refrigerate for 8 to 12 hours. Turn bag often to evenly coat the strips.

Refer to the CAUTION! note on the top of this page about cooking the meat/poultry before or baking after dehydrating. For a more desirable texture, bake after dehydration. Meat/poultry that is precooked prior to dehydrating will have shorter drying times; however, the end product will have a dry, crumbly texture. If cooking the meat before dehydrating is preferred, follow the instructions below:

**Cooking before dehydrating**—After marinating, place strips and liquid marinade into a shallow pan. If no liquid remains, add enough water to cover strips. Bring liquid to a boil and boil for 5 minutes.

Remove strips from marinade and place in a colander to drain. Pat strips dry. Then position them on dehydrator trays. Arrange strips close together but not overlapping.

Dry jerky at 160°F (71°C) for 4 to 8 hours. See “Determining Dryness” information below.

If you did not cook the meat/poultry prior to dehydrating, bake it after, following the instructions below:

**Baking after dehydrating**—Preheat oven to 275°F. (For an accurate temperature reading, check with an oven thermometer.)

Remove jerky strips from dehydrator trays and place on a baking sheet close together, but not touching. Heat jerky in preheated oven for 10 minutes (jerky strips should be sizzling when removed from the oven). Remove jerky from baking sheet and cool to room temperature.

### ***Jerky Marinade†***

- 1½–2 pounds of lean meat
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon hickory smoke flavored salt
- ½ teaspoon onion powder
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper

Combine all ingredients in a small bowl and follow “Preparing Jerky from Meat/Poultry Strips” instructions above.

### ***Preparing Jerky from Ground Meat***

Mix 93% lean ground meat with your favorite commercially available jerky seasoning/cure package. Place the ground meat mixture in a Presto™ jerky gun\* or a cookie press and extrude meat directly onto dehydrator trays, making sure that the meat does not touch or overlap (refer to the warning information above)

Dry jerky at 160°F (71°C) for 4 to 8 hours. See “Determining Dryness” information below.

Bake the meat after dehydrating, following the instructions above.

### ***Determining Dryness***

Begin checking jerky after about 4 hours and every 30 minutes thereafter. Drying time will depend on a variety of factors. These factors include the type of meat/poultry, the amount of fat, and whether or not it was precooked before dehydrating. In addition, times will vary depending on size/thickness of the pieces and how full the trays are. Jerky that is acceptably dry will crack when bent but will not break.

†Jerky Marinade recipe provided by “So Easy To Preserve,” 5th ed., 2006 Bulletin 989, Cooperative Extension Service, The University of Georgia, Athens. Revised by Elizabeth L. Andress, Ph.D. and Judy A. Harrison, Ph.D., Extension Foods Specialists.

## ***Packaging and Storage***

After cooling, pat jerky with paper toweling to remove any fat droplets which may have formed on the jerky. Follow “Packaging and Storing Dried Food” information below. Jerky can be stored 1 to 2 months at room temperature. However, to maintain the best flavor and quality, store in the refrigerator or freezer.

## **Packaging and Storing Dried Food**

- Dried foods need to be properly packaged to prevent reabsorption of moisture and microbial deterioration. Pack food in clean, dry, airtight containers. Glass jars or freezer containers with tight-fitting lids are good for storage. Resealable plastic freezer bags are also acceptable.
- Store packaged dried food in a dry, cool location away from light. Higher temperatures and exposure to light will shorten the storage time and result in loss of quality and nutrients. Most dried fruit, when properly packaged and stored, will be good for 1 year at 60°F or 6 months at 80°F. Fruit rolls should keep for up to 1 month at room temperature. Vegetables have about half the storage life as fruit. If food is to be kept longer, then store it in a freezer.
- Package vegetables and fruits in separate storage containers to avoid flavor transfer.

## **Care, Cleaning, and Storage**

1. Remove the plug from the wall outlet before cleaning.
2. Wash the dehydrator trays and cover in warm water and a mild detergent or wash in a dishwasher (top rack only).
3. The fruit roll trays and the mesh screens should be washed in warm, soapy water. Do not wash these parts in the dishwasher. If necessary, a soft brush may be used to loosen dried on food particles. Do not use steel wool scouring pads or abrasive cleaners on any of the dehydrator parts.
4. After each use, wipe away any food, liquid, and grease residue from the base platform and center hub using a damp cloth. Do not immerse the dehydrator base in water or other liquid.
5. Before stacking the trays onto the base for storage, turn the base upside down and wrap the cord around the center of the unit, securing the cord under the clips.
6. For compact storage, stack the trays onto the base so all of the trays with handles have raised ribs facing up and all of the trays without handles have raised ribs facing down. Once all of the trays are stacked onto the base, turn the cover upside down and place on top of the trays.

## **Get the most from your Presto® Food Dehydrator with these handy accessories...**

### ***Presto™ Jerky Gun*** (Part 08632)

Make delicious homemade jerky from beef, venison, or other meats. Includes jerky gun with three interchangeable nozzles.



### ***Presto® Add-on Nesting Dehydrator Trays***

(Part 06312)

Expand the capacity of your Presto® Dehydro™ Dehydrator. Trays are designed to nest inside each other when not in use to save storage space. Sold in sets of two.

Model 06304 is designed to work with up to twelve trays.

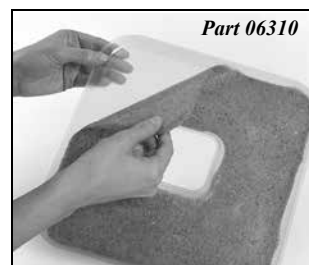


## **Need additional accessories...**

### ***Presto® Fruit Roll Sheets***

(Part 06310)

Sold in sets of two.



### ***Presto® Nonstick Mesh Screens***

(Part 06311)

Sold in sets of two.



## How to Order:

Visit [www.GoPresto.com](http://www.GoPresto.com) or simply scan this QR code. If you do not have computer access, call the Consumer Service Department at 1-800-877-0441 weekdays between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM (Central Time). **Please have your credit card number and expiration date ready.** Payment options on telephone orders limited to credit/debit cards only.



## Perfect companions for your Presto® Food Dehydrator...



**Presto® SaladShooter®**  
**electric slicer/shredder** (Part 02910)

The quick and easy way to evenly slice fruits and vegetables for drying. Includes interchangeable slicing and shredding cones.



**Presto® Professional SaladShooter®**  
**electric slicer/shredder** (Part 02970)

Same great features as the original SaladShooter®, but with added power and capacity. Includes interchangeable processing cones for making thick slices, ripple slices, medium shreds, and super shreds. Also includes a handy funnel guide for directing ingredients right where they're needed.

## Consumer Service Information

If you have any questions regarding the operation of your Presto® appliance or need parts for your appliance, contact us by any of these methods:

- Call 1-800-877-0441 weekdays 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Central Time)
- Email us through our website at [www.GoPresto.com/contact](http://www.GoPresto.com/contact)
- Write: National Presto Industries, Inc.  
Consumer Service Department  
3925 North Hastings Way, Eau Claire, WI 54703-3703

Inquiries will be answered promptly by telephone, email, or letter. When emailing or writing, please include a phone number and a time when you can be reached during weekdays if possible.

When contacting the Consumer Service Department, please indicate the model and the series numbers for the dehydrator. These numbers can be found on the bottom of the unit. Please record this information:

Model \_\_\_\_\_ Series \_\_\_\_\_ Date Purchased \_\_\_\_\_

The Presto Factory Service Department is equipped to service Presto® appliances and supply genuine Presto® parts. Genuine Presto® replacement parts are manufactured to the same exacting quality standards as Presto® appliances and are engineered specifically to function properly with its appliances. Presto can only guarantee the quality and performance of genuine Presto® parts. "Look-alikes" might not be of the same quality or function in the same manner. To ensure that you are buying genuine Presto® replacement parts, look for the Presto® trademark.

Canton Sales and Storage Company  
Presto Factory Service Department  
555 Matthews Dr.  
Canton, MS 39046-3251

## Product Registration

**IMPORTANT:** Please go online and register this product within ten days of purchase. Proper registration will serve as proof of purchase in the event your original receipt becomes misplaced or lost. Registration will not affect warranty coverage, but it may expedite the processing of warranty claims. The additional information requested will help us develop new products that best meet your needs and desires. To register your product, visit [www.GoPresto.com/registration](http://www.GoPresto.com/registration) or simply scan this QR code. If you do not have computer access, call the Consumer Service Department at 1-800-877-0441.



**Presto® Limited Warranty**

*(Applies only in the United States)*

This quality Presto® appliance is designed and built to provide many years of satisfactory performance under normal household use. Presto pledges to the original owner that should there be any defects in material or workmanship during the first year after purchase, we will repair or replace it at our option. Our pledge does not apply to damage caused by shipping. ***Outside the United States, this limited warranty does not apply.***

To obtain service under the warranty, please call our Consumer Service Department at 1-800-877-0441. If unable to resolve the problem, you will be instructed to send your Presto® appliance to the Presto Factory Service Department for a quality inspection; shipping costs will be your responsibility. When returning an appliance, please include your name, address, phone number, and the date you purchased the appliance as well as a description of the problem you are encountering with the appliance.

We want you to obtain maximum enjoyment from using this Presto® appliance and ask that you read and follow the instructions enclosed. Failure to follow instructions, damage caused by improper replacement parts, abuse, misuse, disassembly, alterations, or neglect will void this pledge. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state. This is Presto's personal pledge to you and is being made in place of all other express warranties.

**National Presto Industries, Inc.  
Eau Claire, WI 54703-3703**