

# WEST BEND® DEEP FRYER

## L 5181

TO PREVENT PERSONAL INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE, READ AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS AND WARNINGS IN THIS CARE AND USE INSTRUCTION MANUAL.

Register this and other West Bend® products through our website: [www.westbend.com](http://www.westbend.com)

### IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDS

When using electrical appliances, basic safety precautions should always be followed, including the following:

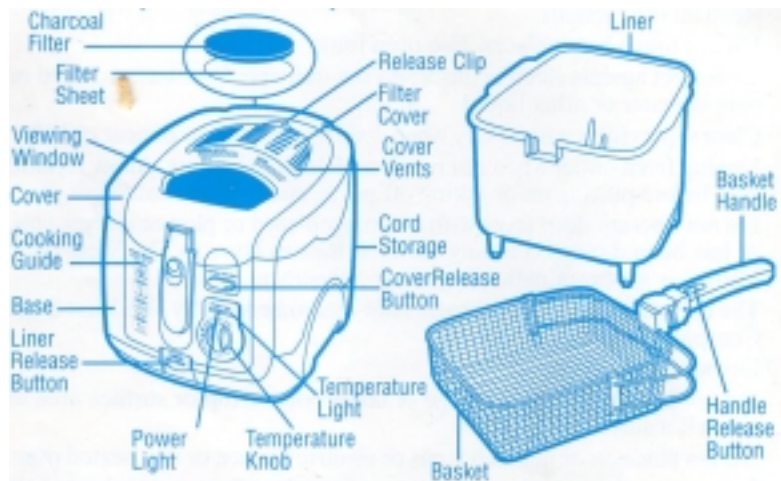
- Read all instructions.
- Do not touch hot surfaces. Use oven mitts.
- To protect against electric shock, do not immerse fryer base, its cord or plug in water or other liquid.
- Close supervision is necessary when deep fryer is used by or near children.
- Unplug from outlet when not in use and before cleaning. Allow fryer to cool before putting on or taking off parts, and before cleaning.
- Do not operate deep fryer with a damaged cord or plug or if fryer fails, or has been damaged in any manner. Return fryer to West Bend Housewares for examination, repair or adjustment.
- The use of accessory attachments not recommended by West Bend Housewares may cause injuries.
- Do not use outdoors.
- Do not let cord hang over edge of table, countertop or surface area or touch hot surfaces.
- Do not place on or near a hot gas or electric burner, or in a heated oven.
- Extreme caution must be used when moving deep fryer containing hot oil.
- Do not use deep fryer for other than intended use.
- Always use deep fryer with liner secured in base.
- Secure cover onto fryer whenever oil is hot. See detailed assembly instructions.
- Always make sure temperature knob is at “0” before plugging cord into wall outlet. To disconnect, set temperature knob to “0”, then remove plug from wall outlet.

**SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS:** Your deep fryer needs no special care other than cleaning. See Warranty section in this booklet for servicing details. Do not attempt to repair it yourself. For Household Use Only.

**WARNING:** To prevent personal injury or property damage caused by fire, always unplug this and other appliances when not in use.

**Electrical Cord and Plug Information: WARNING:** Your deep fryer has a short cord as a safety precaution to prevent personal injury or property damage resulting from pulling, tripping or becoming entangled with the cord. Do not allow children to be near or use this deep fryer without close adult supervision. Do not use with an extension cord. Serious hot oil burns may result from a deep fryer being pulled off a table, countertop or surface area. To avoid circuit overload, do not operate another high wattage appliance on the same circuit.

This appliance has a polarized plug (one blade is wider than the other). As a safety feature, this plug will fit in a polarized outlet only one way. If the plug does not fit fully in the outlet, reverse the plug. If it still does not fit, contact a qualified electrician. Do not attempt to defeat this safety feature.



## **CLEAN BEFORE USING**

**CAUTION:** To prevent personal injury or electric shock, do not immerse fryer base, its cord or plug in water or other liquid.

Before using fryer, clean parts as follows:

**Liner:** Liner must be removed from base for cleaning. To remove, pull liner release lever forward, then lift liner out of base. Wash liner in hot soapy water with dishcloth, rinse and dry thoroughly. Place liner back into base with MIN and MAX markings to the back. Push liner release lever in, until even with front of fryer, to secure liner in base.

**Deep fryer will not function unless liner release lever is pushed in all the way.**

**Base:** Wipe outside of base with a damp cloth and dry.

**Basket:** Wash basket and handle in hot soapy water with dishcloth, rinse and dry.

**Cover:** Wipe cover with a damp cloth and dry. **Do not put cover in water as charcoal filter will become wet.** Your deep fryer is now ready to use.

**FRYING GUIDELINES:** Before using deep fryer, carefully review the following guidelines for safe use:

**WARNING:** To prevent severe personal injury or property damage, use caution when cooking with hot oil.

- Always use fryer on a stable, dry and level heat-resistant surface, away from any edge.
- Always make sure liner is completely dry and secured in base before adding vegetable oil for cooking.
- Fill liner with vegetable oil to the MAX fill mark, about 11 cups. Do not fill liner beyond MAX fill mark to prevent boil-over of hot oil when food is added.
- Use only good quality vegetable oil for frying. Do not use vegetable shortening, lard, butter, margarine or olive oil for frying as these are not suitable for high temperature frying.
- Never add water or any other liquid to oil for frying as any amount of liquid can cause eruption of hot oil.
- Always add oil to liner before fryer is plugged in. Do not allow fryer to heat before oil is added to prevent damage to fryer or possible ignition of oil.
- Do not use fryer under a cabinet as excessive steam is emitted from cover vent which can cause damage.
- Always remove any excess moisture or ice crystals from foods before frying by blotting dry with paper toweling. This will help prevent excessive spattering and foaming of hot oil.
- For even cooking, fry similar-sized pieces of food and do not overfill basket. As a general rule, do not fill basket more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  full with food to ensure food is completely covered with oil when cooking.
- Food can be breaded or batter-coated before frying if desired. Follow recipe directions.
- Foods are normally done when they float to the surface and are nicely browned. Empty food from basket onto paper toweling to drain before serving.
- Always secure cover onto fryer whenever oil is hot.
- Hot steam escapes from cover causing burns. To prevent personal injury or steam burns, use protective oven mitt when opening.
- Use only metal cook tools in fryer. Do not use plastic or rubber cook tools as they will be damaged from hot oil.
- It is best to use fresh oil each time the fryer is used to prevent transfer of flavor.
- Do not reuse oil more than two times as oil deteriorates with use.
- When finished frying, unplug cord from wall outlet, secure cover onto fryer and allow covered fryer to cool completely before removing oil and cleaning.
- Always allow fryer to cool completely before removing liner.
- Replace charcoal filter after every 10 to 12 uses to help reduce odor when frying and also to prevent oil from overflowing due to using a dirty filter. See Warranty section in this book for ordering replacement charcoal filters. Do not use fryer without charcoal filter.

## TO USE DEEP FRYER

1. Place fryer on a stable, dry and level heat-resistant surface, away from any edge. Open cover by pushing cover release button. Lift basket handle up until handle locks in horizontal position. See Diagram 1. Lifting basket handle automatically raises basket to drain position. Lift basket out of fryer.
2. With liner secured in base and basket removed, fill liner with vegetable oil to the MAX fill mark, about 11 cups. See Diagram 2. Do not fill liner with oil beyond the MAX fill mark to prevent boil-over when food is added. Do not operate fryer without oil as damage to fryer will occur.
3. Place basket in drain position. To lower basket, slide handle release button back and slowly lower handle down. See Diagram 3. Close cover to secure. To reduce oil spills, especially if fryer is tipped over, make sure cover is completely secured onto fryer. The cover temporarily reduces oil from spilling if fryer is tipped over; however, care should still be used when moving fryer.
4. With temperature knob at "0" setting, plug cord into a 120 volt AC electrical outlet ONLY. Power light will glow and remain on as long as fryer is plugged in.
5. Set temperature knob to desired setting. See guide on fryer or in this book for recommended temperature to use for food being prepared.

**WARNING: HOT OIL!** To prevent serious personal injury or property damage from spills, keep cover secure on fryer whenever oil is hot.

6. Preheat covered fryer until temperature light goes out, about 13 to 15 minutes. Temperature light will cycle on and off during frying indicating temperature is being maintained.
7. Lift basket handle up to locked position and open cover. Place food evenly into basket. Do not fill basket more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  full with food. Refer to cooking guide in this book for recommended amounts of food to cook at one time.
8. Close cover to secure. Slide handle release button back and SLOWLY lower basket handle to automatically lower basket into oil.

**CAUTION:** To prevent personal injury or steam burns, use protective oven mitt when opening. Hot steam escapes from cover causing burns.

9. Fry food to desired doneness. Refer to guide on fryer or in this book for recommended times. Foods are usually done when they float to the surface and are nicely browned.
10. When done, lift basket handle up to locked position to raise basket out of oil. Open cover. Allow food to drain briefly in drain position, then remove basket from fryer and empty food onto paper toweling to finish draining before serving. Season as desired.

If frying additional food, place empty basket back in drain position, slide handle release button back and lower handle to put basket back into oil. Close cover to secure. Allow oil to heat until temperature light goes out, about 3 to 5 minutes. Continue frying following guidelines above.

If oil level falls below MIN mark, add fresh vegetable oil to bring the level back to MAX mark.



11. When finished frying, set temperature knob to "0." Close cover. Unplug cord from electrical outlet and allow covered fryer to cool completely before removing oil and cleaning.

**WARNING: HOT OIL!** To prevent serious personal injury or property damage from spills, keep cover secure on fryer whenever oil is hot. Allow fryer to cool completely before removing liner.

## CARE AND CLEANING

Always unplug cord from electrical outlet and lower basket into fryer. Close cover to secure onto fryer and allow covered fryer to cool completely before removing oil and cleaning fryer.

**WARNING:** To prevent severe personal injury or property damage, do not remove liner from fryer while it is hot or filled with hot oil. Allow fryer to cool completely before removing liner.

**CAUTION:** To prevent personal injury or electric shock, do not immerse fryer base, its cord or plug in water or other liquid.

**Remove Cover and Basket:** Open cover 90°, push back on cover release clip while lifting cover up to remove from base. See Diagram 4. Lift basket handle until handle locks in horizontal position. See Diagram 1. Lift basket out of fryer.

**Remove Liner and Oil:** Make sure oil is cool before removing liner from fryer. If oil is to be discarded, pour into a disposable container; discard. If oil is to be saved, strain into a dry, clean container by filtering through a sieve lined with paper toweling. Usually, oil may be reused once or twice. Oil should be stored in a covered container in refrigerator. Do not store oil in fryer at room temperature as the oil will become rancid. Do not store fryer-containing oil in refrigerator, as fryer is not designed to be stored in refrigerator.

**Clean Fryer Base:** Wipe surfaces of base with a damp soapy cloth and dry.

**Clean Liner:** After oil is poured out, wipe inside of liner with paper toweling to remove residue. Wash liner in hot soapy water with a dishcloth or non-metal cleaning pad such as Scrunge® scrubber sponge, Dobie® or Scotch-Brite Cookware Scrub 'n Sponge®. Do not use metal scouring pads or harsh scouring powders on liner. After washing, rinse carefully and dry. The liner may be cleaned in dishwasher. However, the non-coated exterior surfaces will darken which is normal. Position liner so it does not touch other objects being washed. Replace liner into base after cleaning.

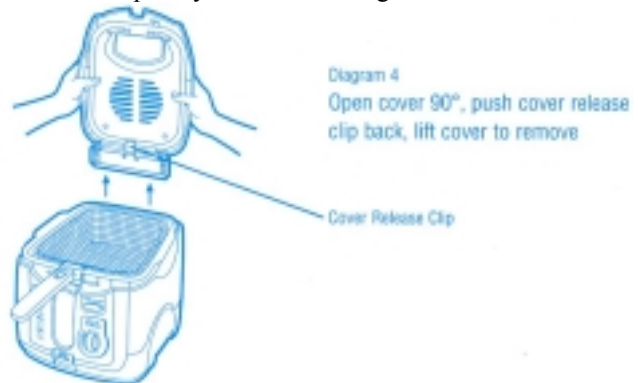
**Clean Basket and Handle:** Wash basket and handle in hot soapy water with a dishcloth, rinse and dry. The basket and handle may be cleaned in dishwasher, **TOP RACK ONLY**. Handle is not removable from basket.

**Clean Cover:** **NOTE: Cover contains charcoal filter. Cover is not immersible for cleaning nor is it dishwasher safe. Do not take cover apart for cleaning.**

**For regular cleaning,** wipe top and bottom sides of cover with a damp soapy cloth, wipe clean and dry. Replace cover on base.

**For more thorough cleaning,** remove charcoal filter from cover by pushing release clip on filter cover. Lift filter out and set aside. **Do not wash charcoal filter.** Wipe top and bottom sides of cover with a damp soapy cloth, wipe clean and dry. Filter cover may be washed in hot soapy water, rinsed and dried. **Do not wash cover parts in dishwasher.** Replace charcoal filter back into recess of plastic cover with thin filter sheet down first. Lock filter cover in place. See Diagram 5. Replace cover on base.

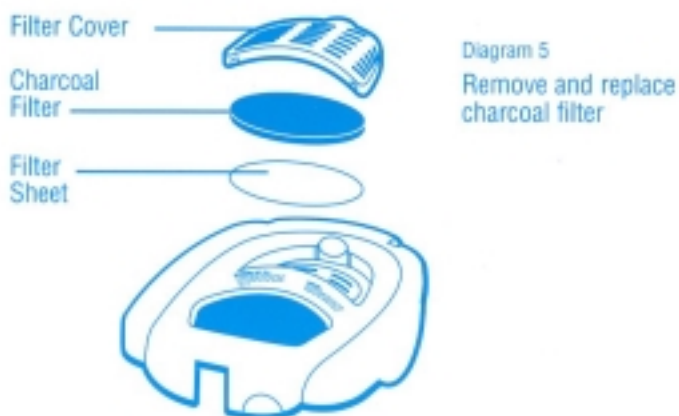
**Storing Fryer :** Make sure all parts of fryer are clean and dry before storing. Place basket into fryer, lower basket handle and store fryer covered. Wrap cord around storage bar on backside of fryer.



**Replacing Charcoal Filter**

The charcoal filter should be replaced after every 10 to 12 uses to help reduce odor during frying and also to prevent possibility of oil overflowing due to using a dirty filter. See Warranty section on ordering charcoal filters. **Do not use any other charcoal filter as a substitute and do not use fryer without a charcoal filter.**

**CAUTION:** To prevent personal injury or property damage from oil overflowing due to using a dirty charcoal filter, replace filter as recommended after every 10 to 12 uses. Do not use fryer without charcoal filter.



To replace charcoal filter, push in release clip on filter cover. Lift charcoal filter out and discard. Wipe recess area clean with a damp soapy cloth, wipe clean and dry. Wash filter cover in hot soapy water, rinse and dry. Place new charcoal filter into recess with thin filter sheet down first. Replace filter cover and close to lock in place. See Diagram 5.

**COOKING GUIDE:** The following are approximate times for maximum recommended amounts of food. If less food is cooked, times will be slightly shorter. Do not fill basket more than 2/3 full for best results. Foods are usually done when they float to the surface and are nicely browned.

<b>FOOD</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>TEMPERATURE</b>	<b>TIME</b>
<b>Chicken</b>			
Frozen, precooked	3 pieces	375°	8-10 minutes
Frozen, nuggets	1 ½ pounds	375°	5-6 minutes
Raw, parboiled, battered	3 pieces	350°	9-12 minutes
<b>Doughnuts</b>	3-4	375°	2-3 minutes
<b>Egg Rolls, frozen</b>	3-4 large	375°	8-9 minutes
<b>Fish</b>			
Frozen, fillets	3 pieces	375°	5-6 minutes
Raw, battered	3 pieces	350°	4-6 minutes
<b>French Fries</b>			
Frozen, crinkle cut	2 pounds	375°	12-15 minutes
Frozen, shoe string	2 pounds	375°	5-7 minutes
Frozen wedges	1 ½ pounds	375°	7-9 minutes
Raw Fries, see recipe	1 ½ pounds	350°-375°	see recipe
<b>Onion Rings</b>			
Frozen, battered	1 ½ pounds	375°	6-8 minutes
Raw, battered	4-5 rings	375°	3-4 minutes
<b>Shrimp</b>			
Frozen, battered	1 ½ pounds	375°	4-6 minutes
Fresh, battered	¾ pound	325°	3-5 minutes
<b>Vegetables</b>			
Frozen, battered	1 ½ pounds	375°	2-3 minutes
Raw, battered	¾ pound	350°	2-3 minutes

## RECIPES

Follow basic user instructions when making these recipes in deep fryer.

### Raw Fries

5-6 medium potatoes, peeled if desired

1. Cut each potato into  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch strips. Place in large bowl, cover with cold water. Allow to soak 15 minutes, or until ready to fry, to remove surface starch.
2. Rinse; drain and dry thoroughly with paper toweling before adding to basket.
3. To cook, choose either the double fry or single fry method from below.

### Double Fry

1. Fill liner with oil to MAX fill mark. Preheat covered fryer with basket lowered, at 350°F until temperature light goes out.
2. Lift basket to drain position; open cover; add raw fries. Do not add more than 1½ pounds of raw fries to basket to prevent boil-over when basket is lowered. Close cover to secure.
3. Slowly lower basket. Cook 3 to 4 minutes until fries are cooked through but not browned.
4. Lift basket to drain position. Set temperature control to 375°F. When temperature light goes out, slowly lower basket. Continue to cook 8 to 10 minutes to brown and crisp fries.
5. When fries are done, lift basket to drain position to allow excess oil to drain off. Open cover. Empty fries onto paper toweling to finish draining before serving. Season as desired. Makes 6 servings.

### Single Fry

1. Fill liner with oil to MAX fill mark. Preheat covered fryer with basket lowered, at 375°F until temperature light goes out.
2. Lift basket to drain position; open cover; add raw fries. Do not add more than 1½ pounds of raw fries to basket to prevent boil-over when basket is lowered. Close cover to secure.
3. Slowly lower basket. Cook 15 to 18 minutes until fries are browned and crisp.
4. When fries are done, lift basket to drain position to allow excess oil to drain off. Open cover. Empty fries onto paper toweling to finish draining before serving. Season as desired. Makes about 6 servings.

**90 DAY WARRANTY:** Your West Bend® Warranty covers failures in the materials and workmanship of this Deep Fryer for 90 days from the date of original purchase. This warranty does not cover discoloration or damage to the non-stick surface caused by misuse, abuse, scratches or overheating. Any failed part of the Deep Fryer will be repaired or replaced without charge.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights, which vary from state to state. This warranty does not cover alleged damage caused by misuse, abuse, accidents or alterations to the Deep Fryer.

If you think the Deep Fryer has failed or requires service within its warranty period, please carefully package, and return the Deep Fryer prepaid and insured with a description of the difficulty to:

West Bend Housewares  
Attn: Customer Service Department  
1100 Schmidt Road  
West Bend, WI 53090  
(262) 334-6949

NOT VALID IN MEXICO

Please ensure that you enclose the sales slip or proof of date of purchase in order to assure warranty coverage. Return shipping fees are non-refundable.

**REPLACEMENT PARTS AVAILABLE:** Replacement parts including charcoal filters may be ordered directly from West Bend Housewares **Or, order online at [www.westbend.com](http://www.westbend.com)**. Be sure to include catalog number of your Deep Fryer, description and quantity of what you want. Along with this information include your name, mailing address and your Visa or MasterCard credit card number for the billing of the part(s) to you. Your state's sales tax and a handling fee will be added to your total charge(if applicable). Or, to send a check or money order call 262-334-6949 to obtain purchase amount. Please allow 2 weeks for delivery.

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