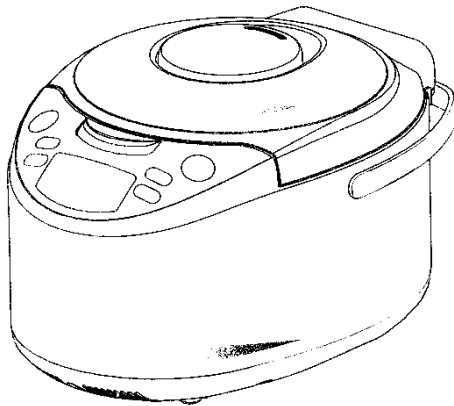




VitaClay® Smart Organic Multi-Cooker **Operating and Care Instructions**

For models VM7900-6 & VM7900-8



READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE INITIAL USE
HOUSEHOLD USE ONLY

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Welcome to VitaClay! We're so glad you're here.

This guide is to help you have a safe and truly satisfying experience. We have created a line of electronic cooking devices that are both easy to use and healthy for you and your family. Enjoy!

Clay is the most traditional cooking material there is, used in every culture for thousands of years. At VitaClay, we care about your health and the health of the environment. That's why we set out to create cookware that not only saves time and money in the kitchen but allows you to utilize traditional cooking methods to turn whole foods into healthy meals with the push of a button!

We have sourced the world's purest clay to create our clay pots, so you can rest assured that no impurities, heavy metals, toxins or chemicals will ever be leached into your food. Not only will your food be clean and healthy, it will taste great and have an unparalleled texture.

Our clays are tested to ensure they are free of the common contaminants in modern cookware including lead, aluminum, cadmium and arsenic. And since our pots are unglazed, you do not have to worry about the harmful chemicals found in other pots. We just don't believe convenience is worth risking your health.

Thank you for purchasing your new VitaClay Smart Organic Multi-Cooker!

To register your new product: Go online to **vitaclaychef.com**, scroll down to the bottom of the homepage, under the center "Support" column, click on "Product Registration"

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Important Safety Information

When using your VitaClay® Smart Organic Multi-Cooker or any electrical appliances, basic electrical precautions should always be followed to reduce the risk of fire, electric shock and injury, including but not limited to the following:

Read all instructions before using your Smart Organic Multi-Cooker. Save for future reference.

- Your Smart Organic Multi-Cooker (“Cooker”) appliance is intended for **household countertop use only** and is not intended for commercial or outdoor use. Do NOT place the Cooker on or near a hot gas or electric stove burner. Do NOT place the Cooker inside a hot oven or broiler.
- **WARNING: Spilled food can cause serious burns. Keep appliance and cord away from children.**
- **CAUTION:** To ensure continued protection against risk of electric shock, connect to properly grounded outlet only. Always attach plug to appliance first, then plug cord into the wall outlet. When you plug in the power cord, please ensure a solid connection with the cord and both Cooker and the electrical outlet. To disconnect, turn unit off and remove the plug from wall outlet by holding the plug. Do NOT pull the cord. Never drape cord over edge of counter. Never use outlet below counter. Only cook in the removeable container.

- **Do NOT immerse** the heating unit of the appliance in water or any other liquid. To prevent electrical shock, Do NOT place the cord, plug or cooking unit near water or other liquids. Keep power cord plug and socket dry and clean. Do NOT touch power plug with wet hands. CAUTION: To reduce the risk of electric shock, cook only in removable container.
- Ensure your Cooker is **always placed on a flat, level surface before use**. Provide adequate air space above and on all sides for air circulation. On surfaces where heat may cause a problem, an insulated heat pad is recommended.
- **DO NOT move the Cooker when it is in cooking or warm mode**. After cooking, use extreme care when moving your Cooker or the clay pot insert if it is filled with hot liquid. Spilled food can cause serious burns. Keep appliance and cord away from children.
- Always unplug the Cooker when not in use or before cleaning. Allow the Cooker to cool before cleaning or removing parts.
- Do NOT use this Cooker for anything other than its intended use. The use of accessory attachments not supplied or recommended by Essenergy may cause injury, fire or electrical shock and may also damage the Cooker. The Cooker should be used for its intended purpose only and not for other cooking purposes such as stir frying, braising, browning or deep oil frying.
- During the cooking process, the steam valve vents needs to be in place for safety and performance. Do NOT touch the steam cap during cooking process as it

becomes very hot. Do NOT put your face near the steam cap, as scalding or burning can occur; Do NOT place any object that is heat sensitive close to, nearby or above the Cooker; Do NOT use a cloth to cover the steam cap, as this may damage the Cooker.

- The clay or stoneware pot and lid become very hot during the cooking process and/or when cooking is finished. Use a dry cloth to pick up the clay pot and lid. Do NOT use bare hands. When lifting the lid on a heated Cooker, carefully lift and tilt lid away from you to avoid scalding and to allow condensed water to drip into pot. Steam and condensation will be very hot; be very careful not to burn yourself. Do NOT touch hot surfaces; Use the handles or knobs provided.
- Do NOT operate any appliances that have damaged plugs or cords, malfunctioned or been damaged in any way. Return the appliance to the manufacturer or qualified service technician for repair or adjustment.

Grounding Information and Instructions

This appliance must be grounded. It is equipped with a 3-wire detachable cord with grounded plug. The plug must be plugged into an outlet that is properly installed and grounded.

WARNING: Improper use of the grounded wire can result in a risk of electric shock. Consult a qualified electrician if necessary. Do NOT attempt to defeat this safety feature by modifying the plug. The short power cord is provided to reduce the hazards resulting from entanglement or tripping over a long cord.

If it is necessary to use an **extension cord**, the cord should be positioned so that it does not drape over the counter or tabletop where it can be pulled on by children or tripped over and:

- Use only 3-wire extension cord with 3-blade grounding plug.
- The marked rating of extension cord must be equal to or greater than the rating of this appliance. Electrical rating is listed on the bottom of this unit.

Caring for your Clay Pot

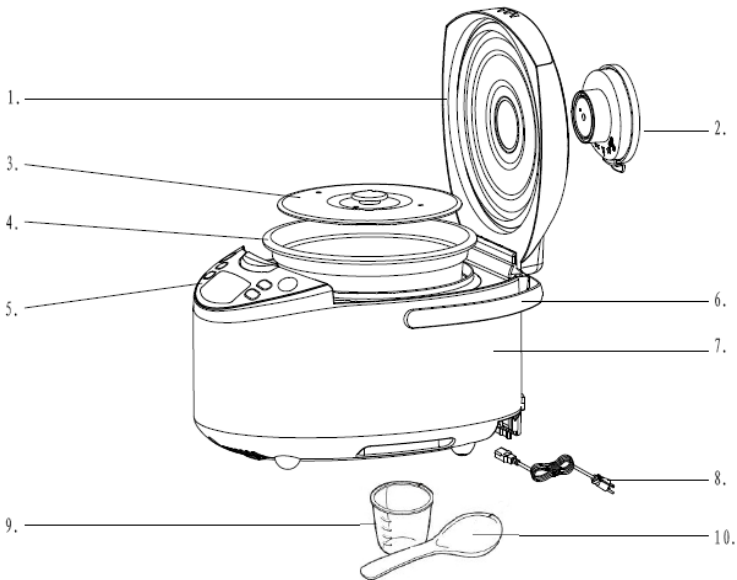
Unglazed natural clay promotes health by preserving all essential nutrients and vitamins in your foods. It creates excellent texture and intensifies flavors of food. In order to preserve the quality and lifespan of your clay pot, here are a few helpful tips and instructions to follow:

- **ALWAYS** avoid temperature shock: never add frozen items to a very hot pot or place a hot pot on a cold, marble counter or directly into the refrigerator. Use a cloth trivet for the counter and allow to cool down before placing in the refrigerator. Do NOT place the clay pot in the freezer. Similarly, Do NOT add boiling water to a very cold pot (out of the refrigerator). Allow the pot to normalize to room temperature before adding very hot or very cold items.
- **DO use your Smart Organic Multi-Cooker with adequate water-based liquids.** Be sure that water-based liquids are always present in the clay pot during cooking to prevent the pot from becoming too dry and overheated. **ALWAYS** cook with liquid present at a minimum of 2 cups (US cup) in the pot but the recipe may need more.
 - **For first-time cooking use** that is longer than 1 hour, please **CHECK** your liquid levels halfway through cooking time to see if liquid is running low, add same temperature or room-temperature liquid as needed. If the liquid is almost gone, turn the machine off and allow it to cool down before adding more liquid and then restart the cooking process. Use the **Cooking Chart** for the first-time cooking and reduce or add liquid amount as needed thereafter.
 - If the liquid completely evaporates, the clay pot will begin “dry heating”, immediately unplug the power

cord, allowing the Cooker to cool down naturally. During cooling, DO NOT add water or remove your pot from the Cooker Housing.

- **DO NOT cook easy to burn foods** like milk, cheese, tomatoes, instant or quick oatmeal without enough liquid or for too long. Use the proper settings, see the **Cooking Chart** for details.
- The clay parts are designed for cooking with the provided Cooker Housing ONLY. DO NOT heat the pot on stove top or oven. **NEVER use the pot for frying, braising, browning or deep oil frying.**
- Avoid sudden temperature changes. DO NOT add cold water to heated pot. **DO place hot pot on a fabric or cotton potholder or dry cloth.** DO NOT put hot pot on any cold surface such as countertop or in the sink.
- When your meal has just finished cooking, the Cooker will still be hot, DO NOT place clay parts in water or on cold surface. This can SHOCK the pot to the pot and may cause it to crack.
- The clay pot is fragile. Be careful when carrying or storing. Do NOT start cooking function while the clay pot is empty. Dry heat can cause the pot to crack or break. Always have some liquid present in the clay pot when the cooking cycle begins. Please handle with care. DO NOT hit it on hard surface or drop it, as it may break.
- Be sure that the **outside of the pot is dry before placing inside the housing** to cook. If liquids have been soaking in the clay pot for a very long time, a leak could occur. Use a dry towel to dry the outside surface of the inner clay pot.

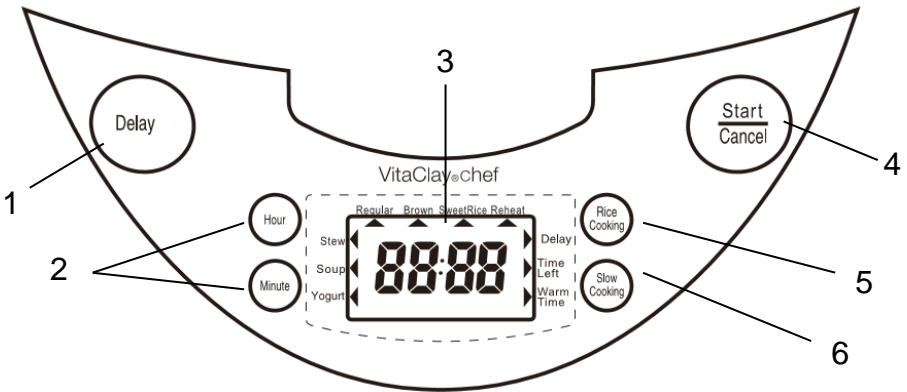
Parts and Assembly Illustration



Key to Parts

- (1) Cooker Cover
- (2) Steam Cap
- (3) Clay Lid
- (4) Clay Pot
- (5) Control Panel, see below
- (6) Handle
- (7) Main Housing
- (8) Power Cord
- (9) Measuring Cup
- (10) Rice Spoon
- (11) Stainless Metal Hook (not shown, for lifting the hot clay lid off the clay pot)

How to read your Control Panel Display



- (1) **“Delay” Start Key** – Function key to turn on delay start mode. Function is on when Indicator Light glows red.
- (2) **“Hour” & “Minute” Timer Keys** – Use for setting Soup, Stew and Yogurt mode cooking time, and Delay Start time.
- (3) **LCD Display** – Displays time at center and via the “black arrows” around the parameter indicates **rice cooking** modes along top edge, **slow/stew/yogurt cooking** modes along left edge and **delay/time left/warm time** along right edge.
- (4) **“Start/Cancel” Key** – Function key to start or cancel any mode. Cooker is on and cooking when Indicator Light glows red.
- (5) **“Rice Cooking” Key** – Function key to select Rice Cooking modes (regular, brown, sweet rice, reheat).
- (6) **“Slow Cooking” Key** – Function key to select Soup, Stew or Yogurt cooking mode.

Let's Get Started!

Remove all packaging from your VitaClay® Smart Organic Multi-Cooker and its accessories prior to use. Make sure all parts are accounted for (see Parts & Assembly Illustration), undamaged and free of debris.

IMPORTANT: CLEAN UNIT THOROUGHLY BEFORE FIRST USE:

- Hand wash the clay pot and cover in warm water with a small amount of detergent.
- Rinse and dry clay pot thoroughly before placing in Housing.
- Remove the large info-graphic sticker from the stainless-steel Housing.
- DO NOT submerge the Housing in water, it is ok to gently wipe it with damp cloth.

Plug the power cord into the unit first and then plug into the wall outlet. When the cooker is ready for operation you will hear a long “beep”.

A slight odor and/or smoke smell may be noticed during the initial use of this appliance. This is normal with many heating appliances and will not occur after the first few uses.

Smart Organic Multi-Cooker Basics (Important Do's and Don'ts to ensure success!)

Your Smart Organic Multi-Cooker (“Cooker”) is a faster, easier, truly a mess-free and notably more delicious and nutritious way to make a rice, soup, chili, stew, or most anything you can make in a regular slow cooker.

Cooking time is significantly shortened when compared to a slow cooker.

The minimum food and liquid volume should be $\frac{1}{4}$ of the pot.

DO NOT dry heat, fry or cook ANY foods dry -- without liquid in pot. Dry heating can shorten the life of the clay pot and Cooker. **DO NOT dry heat to bake or to stir fry foods.**

Keep the Cooker surface and base inside clean and on a flat surface to maintain normal operating conditions.

DO NOT disassemble the Cooker Housing, as this will invalidate the warranty.

During cooking, you may stop the cooking mode at any time by pressing the "Start/Cancel" key. The Cooker will then revert to the Waiting mode and the "Start/Cancel Indicator Light will blink. Reset as needed.

The 3 Slow cooking modes default to a cooking time within 7 seconds of selecting a mode. You must use the "Hour" & "Minute" Timer Keys to adjust a custom cooking time.

If there is a power outage during cooking, you may have to start the cooking cycle again.

During the cooking process, the steam cap should always be in place for safety and performance.

The clay pot and lid become very hot during the cooking process and/or when cooking is finished. Use a dry cloth to pick up the clay pot and use the enclosed lid lifter for the lid. Do not use bare hands.

Always ensure that the Cooker's heating element located in the main Housing is clean and dry. Any particle (food or dirt) will interfere and may prevent the Cooker from cooking

evenly, cause a burning smell or could cause the clay pot to crack. If there is any food residue on the heating element, wipe with a damp (not wet) cloth or Magic Eraser sponge until clean. Never fill the main housing with water and never immerse it in water.

Do open the lid during cooking to check the cooking progress. Unlike other pots, opening the lid does not affect the cooking time! Go ahead, use a thermometer to check doneness, add in vegetables that need just a brief amount of time to cook, or stir and check your seasoning. This is not necessary every time, but in the beginning, it gives you a quicker learning curve.

Note: All recipes in this booklet are based on U.S. measurements (standard U.S. measuring cups and spoons). Plastic cup included with the Cooker is not U.S. measurement, if using adjust accordingly.

See Tips, Shortcuts & FAQ section for additional guidance.

Use the “VitaClay Cooking Charts for VM7900 & VF7700” for first-time cooking. After that, reduce or add liquid amount and cooking time as needed based on your results and preferences.

How to use your Function Keys

Rice Cooking Key (#5 on diagram)

- Press the “Rice Cooking” key to select one of the 4 Rice Cooking modes: “regular”, “brown”, “sweet rice” or “reheat”. The black indicator arrow will show which mode is active.

Slow Cooking Key (#6 on diagram)

- Press the “Slow Cooking” key to select one of the 3 Slow Cooking modes: “stew”, “soup” or “yogurt”. The black indicator arrow will show which mode is active.

Start/Cancel Key (#4 on diagram)

- After you have selected your cooking mode, press the “Start/Cancel” key once to start the cooking cycle.
- Press the key again to cancel the cooking cycle.

Hour & Minute Timer Keys (#2 on diagram)

Use with the “soup”, “stew” or “yogurt” cooking modes:

- Press the “Hour” key to set cooking hours.
- Press the “Minute” key to set cooking minutes in 10-minute increments (Yogurt only allows 30 minutes).
- These keys also allow you to set the “Delay” Start Time (see below).

Delay indicator arrow indicates the delay start function is on.

Time Left indicator arrow indicates the time displayed on the clock is the remaining time left for the cooking cycle (cooking timer counts down to zero from original time set).

Warm Time indicator arrow indicates the time displayed on the clock is the amount of time the cooker has been in the “Warm” mode (warm mode timer counts up from zero after the cooking cycle has ended). The cooker will automatically remain in the “Warm” mode for 12 hours. The clay pot will maintain a temperature between 158° F and 167° F (70° C to 75° C).

How to set the Delay Start Timer

- Press the desired cooking mode using the “Rice Cooking” or “Slow Cooking” function keys. If “Slow Cooking” set cooking time using the “Hour” and “Minute” Timer keys. (Rice cooking times are pre-programmed.)
- While the “Start/Cancel” indicator light is still blinking, press the “Delay” Start key.
- Using the “Hour” and “Minute” Timer keys, set the desired time to delay cooking. This time will be displayed on the clock. (For example, to delay the cooking start time for one hour, set clock to read “1:00” or to delay for 3 hours and 30 minutes, set clock to read “3:30”.)
- Press the “Start/Cancel” key
- The LCD Display clock will show the delay start time and the “Delay” Start indicator light will be illuminated indicating the cooker will begin cooking at the desired time.

How to choose a Cooking Mode

There are 7 cooking modes + a keep warm mode: The Rice Cooking mode offers: “regular”, “brown”, “sweet rice” or “reheat” and the Slow Cooking mode offers: “stew”, “soup” or “yogurt”.

- **Regular Rice mode** is for cooking white rice such as jasmine, basmati, medium and long-grain as well as grains such as quinoa.
- **Brown Rice mode** is for cooking brown rice, mixed whole grains and wild rice.
- **Sweet Rice mode** is for cooking sweet or sticky rice.
- **Reheat mode** is for reheating previously cooked cold rice.
- **Soup mode** is for vegetable stock, bone broth, soups (liquid-based) and porridges such as congee or jook as well as larger cuts of meat with sufficient liquid.

- **Stew mode** is for stews (these are thicker than soups), beans and most classic crockpot-style recipes.
- **Yogurt mode** is for home-made yogurt.

*For a detailed quick reference guide consult the “**VitaClay Cooking Charts for VM7900 & VF7700**” that come with your Cooker.*

How to cook with each Mode

Regular, Brown & Sweet Rice Cooking Modes

The regular, brown and sweet rice modes utilize a micro-computerized cooking mode that enables the Cooker to automatically determine the cooking time needed. You will not be able to set the length of cooking time; however you may cancel the program at any time if the rice is cooked to your liking.

Quinoa may successfully be cooked with the regular mode function whereas mixed whole grains are best cooked in the brown mode.

Important: Do NOT cook oatmeal in the regular, brown or sweet rice cooking modes. Use the Slow Cooking stew mode.

Rice or grain to water ratios

Rice and grains are natural products and the amount of water needed for cooking will depend on the age and size of the product as well as personal taste. The following ratios are suggested and **based on rinsed rice***.

Type of rice/grain	Ratio of rice to water/broth	Rice/grain	Water, broth or stock	Setting
White rice**	1:1 or 1:1.25	1 cup	1 cup to 1-1/4 cups	regular
Sweet rice	1:1.5	1 cup	1-1/2 cups	sweet rice
Brown or wild rice	1:1.5	1 cup	1-1/2 cups	brown
Quinoa	1:1.5 or 1:2	1 cup	1-1/2 cups to 2 cups	regular
Mixed whole grains	1:1.5	1 cup	1-1/2 cups	brown

*If rice is not rinsed, add an extra ¼ cup liquid to pot.

**Assumes sushi, jasmine, etc. Arborio (risotto-style rice) can be made in the regular or stew mode.

NOTES:

- (1) If you prefer to use more water, such as a 1:2 ratio, use the stew mode for 30-40 minutes.
- (2) if using a rice that has suggested rice cooker directions for rice to water ratios, follow the directions on the package.

Chef's Tip: You can always substitute water with vegetable stock or bone broth to enhance flavor and increase nutrition.

Rinsing the rice

To make great rice, we highly recommend that you rinse the plain raw rice before cooking. Simply place desired amount of rice in a strainer or bowl and rinse under water, stirring with your hand, until the water runs clear.

Note: if you are using a flavored or enriched rice product, or the package instructions specifically state not to rinse the rice, you should skip this step.

Basic Rice Cooking Directions (Rice, Brown, and Sweet Rice cooking modes)

- Rinse rice as noted above and add to clay pot (#4 on parts and assembly diagram). Add desired amount of water to pot, stir and cover with the clay pot lid.
- Ensure the exterior of the pot is clean and dry.
- Place covered clay pot into the Cooker on the heating element.
- Close the Cooker cover. You will hear a “click” when it snaps shut. Plug cord into a 120-volt AC/60Hz outlet. The Cooker will beep and “Start/Cancel” indicator light will start blinking.
- Use the “Rice Cooking” key to select a rice cooking mode suitable for your rice or grain as noted in the above chart. The black indicator arrow on the LCD display will show which mode is active.
- Press the “Start/Cancel” key to start the cooking mode. At this point, the “Start/Cancel” indicator light will no longer blink and will glow red.
- The LCD display will show 1 of 3 options:
 - “**0:45**” on the clock and the indicator arrow on the right side will be positioned at “time left” if the **regular mode** was selected. This means your Cooker will cook for approximately 45 minutes in

- the regular mode -- less time is needed for small amounts and more time for larger amounts.
- “**1:00**” on the clock and the indicator arrow on the right side will be positioned at “time left” if the **brown mode** was selected. This means your Cooker will cook for approximately 60 minutes in the brown mode -- less time is needed for small amounts and more time for larger amounts.
 - “**0:40**” on the clock and the indicator arrow on the right side will be positioned at “time left” if the **sweet rice mode** was selected. This means your Cooker will cook for approximately 40 minutes in the sweet rice mode -- less time is needed for small amounts and more time for larger amounts.
 - A few minutes before cooking is complete, the Cooker will beep and once done will automatically switch to the Warm mode. The “Start/Cancel” Light will still glow red; the LCD display will show “**0:00**” and the indicator arrow will now point to “warm time”
 - The Cooker will stay in the Warm mode for up to 12 hours. The timer will show the elapsed time in 10-minute intervals. For example, 30 minutes would be shown as “**0:30**” on the LCD display.
 - The rice may now be served; however, **to achieve the best results we suggest that you allow the rice to remain in the Warm mode for 10-20 minutes before serving.** (This allows the rice to “release” from the bottom of the clay pot.)
 - To end the Warm mode and turn the Cooker off, press the “Start/Cancel” key and unplug the Cooker.
 - It is advised that you Do NOT keep the rice in the Warm mode for longer than 2 hours.

Note: If you plan to hold the rice in the Warm mode for longer than 1 hour, add an extra ¼ cup of liquid at the beginning of cooking.

How to set a Delayed Start for Rice Cooking

You simply need to add 2 steps to delay the start of the cooking time:

- Once you have selected the rice cooking mode but before you press the “Start/Cancel” key (while the “Start/Cancel” indicator light is still blinking), press the “Delay” Start key.
- Using the “Hour” and “Minute” Timer keys, set the desired time to delay cooking. This time will be displayed on the clock. (For example, to delay the cooking start time for one hour, set clock to read “1:00” or to delay for 3 hours and 30 minutes, set clock to read “3:30”.)
- Press the “Start/Cancel” key
- The LCD Display clock will show the “Delay” Start time; the “Delay” indicator light will be illuminated indicating the cooker will begin cooking at the desired time.

NOTE: You cannot change the cooking time once the Cooker enters a cooking mode. Simply press the Start/Cancel key and start over.

Basic Grain Cooking Directions

- If using quinoa, follow grain to water proportions listed in chart above and use the regular cooking mode.
- If using mixed whole grains, follow grain to water proportions listed in chart above and use the brown cooking mode.
- If using mixed wild rice, follow grain to water proportions listed in chart above and use the brown cooking mode.

- For all of the above, after the cooking cycle is complete, allow to rest in the Warm mode for 10-20 minutes before serving.

How to use the Reheat mode for cold rice

Previously cooked rice can be reheated in the Cooker. If the clay pot has been in the refrigerator, be sure to allow it to return to room temperature.

- Use a spoon or spatula to scoop the rice away from the bottom of the pot, then add a few tablespoons of warm water, stir and cover with the clay pot lid.
- Ensure the exterior of the pot is clean and dry.
- Place covered clay pot into the Cooker on the heating element.
- Close the Cooker cover. You will hear a “click” when it snaps shut. Plug cord into a 120-volt AC/60Hz outlet. The Cooker will beep and “Start/Cancel” indicator light will start blinking.
- Use the “Rice Cooking” key to select the “reheat” mode. The black indicator arrow on the LCD display will show this mode is active.
- Press the “Start/Cancel” key to start the cooking mode. At this point, the “Start/Cancel” indicator light will no longer blink and will glow red.
- The LCD display will read: “**0:25**” on the clock and the indicator arrow on the right side will be positioned at “time left” if the **reheat mode** was selected. This means your Cooker will reheat the rice for 25 minutes in the reheat mode.

A general guide to Flavoring Rice and Grains

Please refer to the recipe booklet that came with the Cooker as well as recipes online at vitaclaychef.com.

Additionally, here are some basic suggestions:

- Salt and/or butter (or cooking oil) may be added at

the beginning of the cooking cycle.

- Use broth or vegetable stock in place of water, leftover vegetable-steaming water or water with your favorite herbs added to increase flavor and nutrients.
- To create a golden rice, stir in a teaspoon of turmeric at the beginning of the cooking cycle.
- Sauté any of the following ingredients in olive oil and mix into the rice **after cooking** is complete: cashews, cranberries, raisins, apple chunks, mango cubes, mushrooms, garlic &/or onions.

A general guide to One-Pot Rice or Grain Meal

Ten minutes before the regular or brown mode cooking cycle completes (LCD display will show “0:10”), add fish and vegetables on top of your rice/grain or place the fish inside a ceramic bowl/ dish then place it on top of rice/grain. Let simmer until cooking cycle completes. You may let your food continue to simmer in the Warm mode for additional 10-20 minutes or until your fish is cooked through.

Note: See the “**VitaClay Cooking Charts for VM7900 & VF7700**” for additional guidance.

Slow Cooking Modes

VitaClay Cookers preserves nutrients allowing food to cook in its natural juices. It brings food to a boil 2-4 times faster than conventional slow cookers then reduces the heat to a slow simmer for gourmet perfection. The automatic Warm mode holds food perfectly cooked for up to 12 hours. You have two options of slow cooking in your Cooker.

Choose the Soup mode for soups, broths, saucy beans, porridge and recipes for larger cuts of meat that also have larger amounts of liquid. The Soup mode allows you to select the amount of cooking time up to 4 hours and 50 minutes. Most recipes will cook in 2-3 hours.

Choose the Stew mode for traditional Crock-Pot/slow cooker style recipes, beans, one-pot pasta and to steam fish or vegetable. The Stew mode allows you to select the amount of cooking time up to 4 hours and 50 minutes. Most recipes will cook 2 hours.

It is highly recommended that you refer to the recipe booklet provided for the first few recipes you make in the Slow Cooking mode. See also the “**VitaClay Cooking Charts for VM7900 & VF7700**” that came with the Cooker for guidance on ingredient proportions.

Remember to always check the cooking progress halfway through and make adjustments accordingly for liquid and cooking time.

Basic Soup or Stew Cooking Directions

- Place your soup ingredients (including water, broth or stock) into the clay pot, stir and cover with the clay pot lid.
- Ensure the exterior of the pot is clean and dry.
- Place covered clay pot into the Cooker on the heating element.
- Close the Cooker cover. You will hear a “click” when it snaps shut. Plug cord into a 120-volt AC/60Hz outlet. The Cooker will beep and “Start/Cancel” indicator light will start blinking.
- Use the “Slow Cooking” key to select the soup or stew cooking mode. The black indicator arrow on the LCD display will show which mode is active.
- The LCD display will show “**2:00**” as the **default cooking time**; which means your soup or stew is set to cook for 2 hours.
- You may shorten or lengthen cooking time by pressing the Timer keys **within a few seconds** of selecting the cooking mode:

- Press the “Hour” key to set cooking time from 1 to 4 hours.
- Press the “Minute” key to set cooking time in 10-minute increments from 10-50 minutes.
- Press the “Start/Cancel” key to start the soup or stew cooking mode. At this point, the “Start/Cancel” indicator light will no longer blink and will glow red.
- The LCD display will show the time selected on the clock and the indicator arrow on the right side will be positioned at “time left”. This means your Cooker will cook for selected time in the soup or stew mode.
- A few minutes before cooking is complete, the Cooker will beep and once done will automatically switch to the Warm mode. The “Start/Cancel” Light will still glow red; the LCD display will show “0:00” and the indicator arrow will now point to “warm time”
 - The Cooker will stay in the Warm mode for up to 12 hours. The timer will show the elapsed time in 10-minute intervals. For example, 30 minutes would be shown as “0:30” on the LCD display.
- To end the Warm mode and turn the Cooker off, press the “Start/Cancel” and unplug the Cooker.

NOTE: You cannot change the cooking time once the Cooker enters a cooking mode. Simply press the Start/Cancel key and start over.

How to set a Delayed Start for Slow Cooking

You simply need to add 2 steps to delay the start of the cooking time:

- Once you have selected the slow cooking mode but before you press the “Start/Cancel” key (while the “Start/Cancel” indicator light is still blinking), press the “**Delay**” **Start** key.

- Using the “Hour” and “Minute” Timer keys, set the desired time to delay cooking. This time will be displayed on the clock. (For example, to delay the cooking start time for one hour, set clock to read “1:00” or to delay for 3 hours and 30 minutes, set clock to read “3:30”.)
- Press the “Start/Cancel” key
- The LCD Display clock will show the “Delay Start” time, the “Delay” indicator light will be illuminated indicating the cooker will begin cooking at the desired time.

A general guide to Soups, Broths and Porridge

All are best made in the **soup mode**. Please refer to the recipe booklet and the “**VitaClay Cooking Charts for VM7900 & VF7700**” that came with the Cooker.

Additionally, here are some basic guidelines:

- Vegetable stocks cook in about 1 to 1-1/2 hours.
- Meaty bone broths will cook in about 3 to 4.5 hours.
- Whole chicken soup cooks in 2 hours.
- Congee, jook or whole grain porridge cook at least 1-½ hours.
 - Cooking ratio for porridge is 1 cup of dry rice/grain to 6-8 cups of water.
 - Never cook more than 2 cups dry rice/grain.
 - Do NOT add milk until serving time as it may cause overflow or food burning.
- All recipes may be held in the Warm mode for up to 12 hours, so your food is ready when you are – whether it is cooking overnight for **breakfast** or during the day for an evening meal.

A general guide to Cooking Dry Beans & Lentils

Beans take time to learn to cook no matter what method you use. Lentils are more forgiving. Cooking time and amount of water needed will vary by size and age of bean or lentil variety. Best advice is to start with more rather than

less water and to check at 30-minute intervals. Lastly, it is a myth that salt will make your beans and lentils tough. Salt them at the beginning of cooking to ensure they obtain a full, rich flavor.

Note: Remember to allow time for pre-soaking the beans for up to 12 hours and lentils for up to 4 hours.

Type of legume	Legume	Water, broth or stock	Soup setting	Stew setting
Black/pinto/kidney beans	1 cup	3-4 cups	1-2 hours	1 hour
Split peas	1 cup	2 cups	1 hour	1 hour
White beans	1 cup	3-4 cups	1-2 hours	1 hour
Black-eyed peas	1 cup	3-4 cups	1-2 hours	1 hour
Brown/green/red lentils	1 cup	2-3 cups	1 hour	30 min - 1 hour
Petite French lentils	1 cup	3 cups	1 hour	30 min - 1 hour

- Place the drained, pre-soaked beans or lentil into clay pot and cover with fresh water as noted above. Ensure beans are covered by about 1” of water.
- Add 1 to 2 Tablespoons oil (to prevent boiling over) and seasonings as desired.
- Press the **Slow Cooking key to select the stew or soup mode** on the control panel and use the Timer keys to set desired time.
- Check every 30 minutes as cooking time will vary depending on the bean variety. Some beans will take just an hour and some 2 hours. Lentils can take under an hour or more if you like them very soft.
- Test to ensure they are soft and thoroughly cooked.

- After the cooking cycle completed, the Cooker will switch to “Warm” mode.
- The best rule for the first time of cooking is to check halfway cooking to see if the beans are covered with the cooking liquid during cooking. This allow you to know how much water and time is required for your bean variety and taste.

Use the “VitaClay Cooking Charts for VM7900 & VF7700” for first-time cooking. After that, reduce or add liquid amount and cooking time as needed based on your results and preferences.

A general guide to Cooking Oatmeal

- Add 1 cup **steel cut or rolled oatmeal** and 3-4 cups water in your clay pot.
- Press the **Slow Cooking key to select the stew mode** on the control panel, then use the Timer keys to set cooking for 30 minutes.
- You may leave cooked steel cut oats in Warm mode for additional 30 minutes for a softer texture.

A general guide to Steaming Vegetables

- Add 2-3 cups water to the clay pot and place a bowl or steamer basket on top, ensuring that the water does not come above the base of the steamer basket.
- Place vegetables in the bowl or steamer basket.
- Press the **Slow Cooking key to select the stew mode** on the control panel, then use the Timer keys to set cooking time.
- Cooking time will depend on the amount and size of each piece of vegetable.
 - Zucchini and other soft vegetables will take the least amount of time. Set the cooking time to 30 minutes but check at 15-20 minutes as time

depends on the amount of food and size of the pieces.

- Broccoli, cauliflower and firmer vegetables will take a little longer.

Whole potatoes, yams or whole beets will take about 1 hour and if chopped approximately 30 minutes.

A general guide to Steaming Fish

- Add 2-3 cups water to the clay pot and place a bowl or steamer basket on top, ensuring that the water does not come above the base of the steamer basket.
- Place the fish in the bowl or steamer basket.
- Press the **Slow Cooking key to select the stew mode** on the control panel, then use the Timer keys to set cooking time for 30 minutes or longer.
- Check at 20 minutes and continue cooking until fish is cooked through.

A general guide to One-Pot Pasta Meal

- To the clay pot add: 4 oz dry pasta (any type), 2 cups water or broth, and 1 cup marinara or pesto sauce and stir.
- If desired, add 1/2-pound cooked meatballs, sausage or chicken plus vegetables (small pieces of bell peppers and onions or peas for example) and give the pot another stir.
- Press the **Slow Cooking key to select the stew mode** on the control panel, then use the Timer keys to set cooking for 30 minutes if more than above than 1 hour (although you will not be cooking for 1 hour).
- Check doneness at 20 minutes for thin pasta shapes and note that thick shapes may take longer than 30 minutes.

Use the “**VitaClay Cooking Charts for VM7900 & VF7700**” for first-time cooking. After that, reduce or add liquid amount and cooking time as needed based on your results and preferences.

Yogurt Cooking Mode

Basic Yogurt Cooking Directions

- Place **at least** 48 oz (6 cups) of fresh milk into a high-sided saucepan (1 cup of milk makes about a cup of yogurt) and place on a stove top burner set to medium heat.
- Meanwhile, set out your active yogurt culture to warm to room temperature (see below for details).
- Heat the milk to **180° F (82° C)**. If you do not have a thermometer, heat the milk until it just starts to froth but well before it boils.
- Remove the saucepan from heat and allow the milk to cool to 110° F (43° C). If not using a thermometer, wait until the pot is just cool enough to touch with your bare hands (still very warm but not hot). It is very important that the temperature is not too hot, or you will kill the active cultures.
- When the temperature reaches **110° F (43° C)**, add about a cup of milk to your yogurt culture and stir to distribute it evenly. Add the culture mixture to the balance of the milk and stir until you have a smooth mixture and then pour into your clay pot. And cover with the clay pot lid.
- Ensure the exterior of the pot is clean and dry.
- Place covered clay pot into the Cooker on the heating element.
- Close the Cooker cover. You will hear a “click” when it snaps shut. Plug cord into a 120-volt AC/60Hz

outlet. The Cooker will beep and “Start/Cancel” indicator light will start blinking.

- Use the “Slow Cooking” key to select the yogurt cooking mode. The black indicator arrow on the LCD display will show which mode is active.
- The LCD display will show “**8:00**” as the **default setting**; which means your yogurt is set to cook for 8 hours.
- You may shorten or lengthen cooking time by pressing the Timer keys.
 - Press the “Hour” key to set cooking hours from 5 to 12 hours.
 - Press the “Minute” key to set cooking minutes for either 0 or 30 minutes.
 - While you can change the time, 8 hours is best.
- Press the “Start/Cancel” key to start the yogurt cooking mode. At this point, the “Start/Cancel” indicator light will no longer blink and will glow red.
- The LCD display will the time selected on the clock and the indicator arrow on the right side will be positioned at “time left”. This means your Cooker will cook for the selected time in the yogurt mode.
- A few minutes before cooking is complete, the Cooker will beep and once done will automatically switch to the Warm mode. The “Start/Cancel” Light will still glow red; the LCD display will show “**0:00**” and the indicator arrow will now point to “warm time”
 - The Cooker will stay in the Warm mode for up to 12 hours. The timer will show the elapsed time in 10-minute intervals. For example, 30 minutes would be shown as “**0:30**” on the LCD display.
- To end the Warm mode and turn the Cooker off, press the “Start/Cancel” and unplug the Cooker.

- Once the yogurt is done, dispense the yogurt into your own containers or leave in the clay pot to refrigerate at least 4 hours before using. The yogurt will thicken as it cools.
- Store in the refrigerator and enjoy within 7 days.

NOTE: You cannot change the cooking time once the Cooker enters a cooking mode. Simply press the Start/Cancel key and start over.

IMPORTANT: THE YOGURT MAKER SHOULD REMAIN PERFECTLY STILL DURING THE INCUBATION PROCESS. DO NOT MOVE THE APPLIANCE AS THIS WILL AFFECT THE FIRMNESS OF THE YOGURT.

Good to know details on Yogurt Making

- 8 hours is best. The longer the yogurt incubates beyond that time, the flavor will become tarter.
- Water may condense on the clay lid of the Cooker. When you remove the lid, take care not to drip any accumulated water into the finished yogurt.
- Chill the yogurt in the refrigerator for a minimum of 4 hours before eating. If the whey (yellow, watery substance) pools at the top you can simply mix it back in or strain it off, so the yogurt becomes thicker. If you strain it off, SAVE IT! This can be used to start a new batch of yogurt.
- **The taste and texture of the yogurt varies according to the milk and yogurt starter selected.** It can be thin like kefir or thicker and more European style. You should experiment with milk of various fat contents to determine which one you prefer.
- Don't forget to save a small amount of yogurt to make the next batch of homemade yogurt (or save the whey as mentioned above).

Check out this video:

<https://www.everythingkitchens.com/how-to-make-yogurt-at-home-vitaclay.html#>

How to choose a culture and how much to use

- Culture may either be purchased freeze-dried or you can use plain yogurt with live cultures from the store or a previous homemade batch. The type of culture, the amount of time you give it to culture the milk and even the temperature all affect the end result.
- If using a purchased culture, follow the directions of the package for the amount to use and how to incorporate it into the warm milk.
- If using plain yogurt (or whey) there must be live active cultures in the yogurt, add 1 tablespoon yogurt per cup of milk.
- To learn more check out the **New England Cheesemaking Supply Company** at cheesemaking.com or **Cultures for Health** at culturesforhealth.com.

Which milk to use for yogurt

- The following types of milk may be used: raw or pasteurized cow, sheep or goat's milk of any fat content, powdered milk, long-life UHT sterilized milk, or coconut milk.
- Keep in mind that the higher the fat content the creamier and richer the yogurt will be.
- Nut milks such as almond may also be used but require a bit more work. There are many recipes online.

How to make Greek yogurt

- If you would like a thicker Greek-style yogurt you will need to strain the whey once the yogurt has cooled (next day is best).

- Consider bringing the milk to a full boil (212°F, 100°C) instead of 180 °F which will also create a thicker yogurt.
- For an even thick yogurt or to make yogurt cheese, drain the yogurt in cheesecloth.

How to make flavored yogurt

The yogurt can be flavored with jam, jelly, honey or fresh fruit. Here are two techniques to try:

Yogurt flavored with jam, jelly, honey or syrup

Ingredients:

- 4-5 tablespoons of jam, jelly, honey or syrup
- 4 tablespoons of unflavored yogurt or active culture as recommended on package
- 4 cups milk

Gently heat the jam or jelly until barely warm. Add this to the milk when adding the culture and as per the basic yogurt instruction.

Yogurt flavored with fresh fruit

Ingredients:

- ½ cup chopped fresh fruit of choice
- 4 tablespoons of sugar or to taste
- 1-2 cups water
- 4 tablespoons of unflavored yogurt or active culture as recommended on package
- 4 cups milk

Cook the fruit in the sugar and water over low heat for 10-15 minutes or until thickened. Let cool to 110°F (43°C). Add the fruit mixture to the milk when adding the culture and proceed as per the basic yogurt instruction.

Care, Cleaning and Proper Maintenance

The Clay Pot and Lid

- Like any ceramic material, the removable clay pot will be damaged by sudden temperature changes.
- For general washing, wait until the clay pot cools. Then wash it in warm water with a very small amount of dishwashing liquid and rinse thoroughly.
 - **Do NOT put the clay pot in the dishwasher.** Sudden temperature changes may crack it and excessive soap will clog the pores.
 - When washing the clay pot, it is recommended that a soft cloth or pad be placed between the pot and sink to protect the pot from hitting the sink.
 - Do NOT use abrasive scouring powders or steel wool. A plastic brush or nylon scrub pads can be used as needed.
 - Use hot water if you wash the clay pot right after cooking. **Do NOT use cold water if the pot is hot.**
- After washing, dry thoroughly and store the pot with the lid inverted upside down in the Cooker, ideally with a towel between the layers. Avoid storing the Cooker with the lid sealed because it may become moldy if not carefully dried.
 - If the Cooker should become moldy, make a paste of baking soda and water, cover the clay pot and lid with the paste and allow it to dry. When the paste is dry, rinse with water and dry well.
- For hard to remove residue or to do a thorough cleaning, allow the clay pot to soak overnight in the sink with water and ¼ cup baking soda. Wash using a brush or nonmetallic scrubbing pad. Follow this treatment after cooking fish or foods with strong seasoning.
- Some cooking residue may fill inside the venting

holes of the clay lid or around the lip of the lid. To clean, remove any residue from the venting holes and wash with warm water.

- Store your Cooker in a dry and clean environment.

The Outside of the Cooker Housing

- The outside of the Cooker may be wiped clean with a soft cloth and warm soapy water. Wipe dry. Do NOT use abrasive cleaners. Grease may be removed with diluted ammonia. Do NOT let the Control Panel Display or any electrical mechanisms within the unit get wet.

The Inside of the Cooker Housing

- Use a damp, soft cloth to clean and dry the steam cap and the large silicone ring around the edge of the Housing lid (being careful not to remove it).
- If an object becomes stuck to the heat element lightly rub it off using a fine-grade sandpaper (#600 grit), Magic Eraser sponge or steel wool. Then wipe with a damp cloth.

<p>This appliance is intended for HOUSEHOLD USE ONLY. There are no User Serviceable Parts inside. The heating unit needs no lubrication or other service. Do NOT attempt to service this appliance.</p>

Tips, Shortcuts & Frequently Asked Questions

- **Please note:** For cooking in VitaClay Cookers there must be liquid (water or clear broth) present at all times. No "dry cooking" should be done in any VitaClay pot. Please ensure adequate liquids throughout the cooking cycle, as burning or "going dry" can compromise the integrity of the clay. For detailed refer to the **“VitaClay Cooking Charts for VM7900 & VF7700”**.
- **How do I convert cooking time from a regular Crock-Pot/slow cooker recipe to use with this Cooker?**
 - For a pot that is at least 2/3 full: If your recipe calls for cooking on “Low” for 8 hours or “High” for 4 hours use the stew mode for 2 hours or until food is cooked.
 - For a pot that is 1/4 full (small amount of food and liquid): Use the stew mode for 30 minutes or until food is cooked.
- **How long does it take to cook chicken in this Cooker?** Approximately 2 hours for a 3-4-pound whole chicken with 1 cup of liquid in the stew mode and 30 to 40 minutes for 1 pound of boneless breasts with 1 cup of liquid in the stew mode.
- **How long does it take this Cooker cook a roast?** This will depend on the size and cut. You should allow 2-1/2 to 3-1/2 hours in the soup mode or 2 hours in the stew mode.
- **How long should I cook bone broth?** Cook chicken bone broth for 2 to 3 hours and beef for 4 to 5 hours in the soup mode. Let the bone broth settle

in the Warm mode for an additional 8 to 9 hours to ensure all the nutrients have been extracted.

- **How can I start the cooking in the morning to have dinner ready when I get home?** This VitaClay Cooker cooks at a rate 4 times faster than a conventional slow cooker. Once the cooking is complete, the Cooker will automatically switch to the Warm for up to 12 hours. Your food will be warm and have a perfect texture when you are ready for dinner!
- **Is the clay pot oven and microwave safe?** Yes!
- **Is the clay pot stove-top safe?** No.
- **How do I cook "Porridge" in my Cooker?** For rice- or grain-based porridge, use the soup mode to cook for at least 1.5 hours. Do NOT add milk until serving time as it may cause overflow or food burning. See the Slow Cooking section of this booklet for more details.
- **Do I have account for high elevations?** Yes, if you live at an altitude greater than 5,000 feet, it may affect boiling time and may increase cooking time. Take the usual steps to adjust.

Use the “VitaClay Cooking Charts for VM7900 & VF7700” for first-time cooking. After that, reduce or add liquid amount and cooking time as needed based on your results and preferences.

LIMITED ONE-YEAR WARRANTY

To register your new product: Go online to
vitaclaychef.com
scroll down to the bottom of the homepage, under the
center “Support” column, click on “Product Registration”

Essenergy, Inc. (“Essenergy”) warrants this Product against defects in material or workmanship for a period of one (1) year from the date of original purchase, when utilized for normal household use. Essenergy will repair or replace the Product, at its option, at no charge except for shipping and handling.

This warranty does not cover: (1) The clay pot or lid; (2) damage due to incorrect customer instruction, installation or set up; (3) cosmetic damage or other damage due to an act of God, accident, misuse, abuse, or negligence; (4) commercial use of the Product; (5) modification of any part of the Product; (6) damage due to improper operation, improper maintenance, or connection to an improper voltage supply; (7) damage due to attempted repair of the Product by anyone not authorized by Essenergy to service the Product; (8) normal wear of parts; (9) Damage or defects caused by shipping, faulty packaging or mishandling in transit; (10) any non-electric/mechanical attachments and accessories and disposable parts including measuring cup, spoon, inner pot, outside case, cord and plug.

KEEP YOUR SALES RECEIPT. Warranty service will require presentation of proof of purchase in the form of a bill of sale or receipt which shows the date of purchase and establishes that the Product is within the warranty period.

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR PRODUCT WITHIN 10 DAYS OF PURCHASE. Product must be registered in order to claim warranty service. Please visit www.VitaClayChef.com to register your product.

This warranty is invalid if the factory applied serial number or production date has been altered or removed from the Product.

To obtain warranty service, first contact customer service to receive an RMA number. You will receive instructions for the return of your unit once it has been authorized. You will need to send the complete electronic housing (**without the clay pot or lid**) insured, freight prepaid, plus proof of purchase (as described above). Be sure to package in the original packaging and ensure the machine is secure inside of the box, with no rattling or movement once the box is sealed. If the unit arrives with damage from shipment, the warranty will be invalidated.

Please attach your name, address, telephone number, and a description of the problem along with return postage. A warranty form should be completed and included with the package. The product must be sent carefully packed and properly cushioned to prevent damage in transit. Your failure to abide by these provisions may cause your request for warranty service to be denied, and the repaired unit will be returned at your expense. This warranty is extended only to the original purchaser of this product and does not extend to any commercial use or unreasonable use. This warranty is valid only in the United States.

NOTE: REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT AS PROVIDED UNDER THIS WARRANTY IS THE EXCLUSIVE REMEDY OF THE CONSUMER. ESSENERGY SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES FOR BREACH OF ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTY ON THIS PRODUCT EXCEPT TO THE

EXTENT PROHIBITED BY APPLICABLE LAW. ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE ON THIS PRODUCT IS LIMITED IN DURATION TO THE DURATION OF THIS WARRANTY.

Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages or allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above limitations or exclusions may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may have other rights which vary from state to state.

Visit **vitaclaychef.com** for recipes, cooking charts & more!

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Instagram at vitaclay

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Revision: 01/2020