

Popcorn Machine – Risk Assessment

Activity

Operation of electric popcorn machine for food preparation and sale



Persons at Risk

- Operator
 - Assistants
 - Members of the public (especially children)
 - Event staff
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Hazard Assessment & Control Measures

1. Hot surfaces & hot oil

Risk: Burns from kettle, glass panels, or hot oil

Who is at risk: Operator, assistants

Control Measures:

- Only trained adults to operate machine
- Warning signage: *Hot Surfaces*
- Do not touch kettle during or immediately after use
- Allow machine to cool before cleaning or moving
- Heat-resistant gloves used where appropriate

Risk Level: Medium → Low

2. Electrical hazards

Risk: Electric shock, fire

Who is at risk: All persons nearby

Control Measures:

- Machine must be PAT tested

- Suitable extension leads used (outdoor-rated if outside)
- Keep cables away from water and walkways
- Switch off and unplug before cleaning or maintenance

Risk Level: Medium → Low

3. Fire risk

Risk: Overheating oil or electrical fault

Who is at risk: All persons

Control Measures:

- Never leave machine unattended while switched on
- Do not overfill oil or kernels
- Fire extinguisher available (CO₂ or foam, depending on guidance)
- Keep flammable materials away from machine

Risk Level: Medium → Low

4. Manual handling

Risk: Strains or injuries when lifting machine

Who is at risk: Staff

Control Measures:

- Two-person lift for heavy machines
- Use trolley if available
- Avoid lifting when machine is hot

Risk Level: Low

5. Slips, trips & falls

Risk: Trailing cables, spilled kernels or oil

Who is at risk: Staff and public

Control Measures:

- Secure cables with tape or cable covers

- Clean up spills immediately
 - Keep work area tidy and dry
- Risk Level:** Low
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6. Food hygiene & contamination

Risk: Food poisoning or contamination

Who is at risk: Customers

Control Measures:

- Hands washed before handling food
 - Gloves or scoops used for serving
 - Ingredients stored in sealed containers
 - Machine cleaned before and after use
 - No public access to food prep area
- Risk Level:** Medium → Low
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7. Public interference (children)

Risk: Burns or injury from touching machine

Who is at risk: Members of the public

Control Measures:

- Barrier or table separating public from machine
 - Clear signage: *Staff Only / Hot Surface*
 - Constant supervision
- Risk Level:** Medium → Low
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Emergency Procedures

- Switch off and unplug machine immediately if unsafe
- Burns treated with cold running water
- First aid kit available

- All incidents reported to responsible person
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Training & Supervision

- Operator trained in safe use of popcorn machine
 - Responsible adult present at all times
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Assessment Review

- Review before each event or if equipment/location changes
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