



Food Processing and Preservation (Cont.)



Outlines

Previous Lecture

Food Processing

Food Preservation



Learning Outcome

Understand Principles of Food Processing & Preservation



Evaluate the Impact on Food Quality & Safety



Apply Preservation Methods in Food Industry





Chemicals

Preservatives

Work either as:

- Direct microbial poisons or,
- Reducing the pH to a level that prevents the growth of microorganisms (MOs)

#Chemicals used today are:

Nitrates and Nitrites

1. To preserve meats

Sulphites

1. To prevent the browning of fruits and vegetables
2. To prevent fungal spoilage



Common food preservation methods:

- Bottling and canning
- Pickling
- Drying
- Salting
- Vacuum packing
- Cooling and freezing
- Waxing
- Pasteurization
- Boiling
- Smoking



Bottling and Canning

Bottling and canning are processes of preserving food by heating and then sealing it in an airtight container.

The food is boiled to kill microorganisms and then sealed to prevent other microorganisms from getting in.





PICKLING

Pickling food in vinegar or other acids makes it difficult for microorganisms to live.

Commonly pickled food includes onions, parkias, soya beans, and chillies.

Sugar can also be used in pickling fruits such as nutmegs, mangoes, and cherries.

The concentrated sugar solution used draws water from the fruit, thus preventing the growth of microorganisms.





Drying

A lot of food is preserved by drying under the sun.

Drying removes most water from food. Most bacteria die or become inactive when the food is dried.

Anchovies and dried chillies are examples of dried food.





Salting

Salting is an age-old way of preserving food. The salt draws out moisture and prevents microorganisms from growing. In this process, food such as fresh fish are gutted, washed, and coarse salt is rubbed into it.

A lot of our local foods are preserved by the salting process.





Vacuum Packing

Vacuum packing keeps food by sucking air out from its packaging.

Food is thus prevented from spoiling because there is no air.

Vacuum packing is commonly used for storing nuts, sliced fish, pickled, and dried fruit.





Cooling and Freezing

Cooling and freezing are the most common forms of food preservation.

Cooling slows down the action of microorganisms, thus it takes longer to spoil. It allows fruit from different parts of the world to appear on our supermarket shelves (0 to -4°C).

At freezing temperature, microorganisms become inactive, thus food cannot spoil when it is frozen (-18°C).

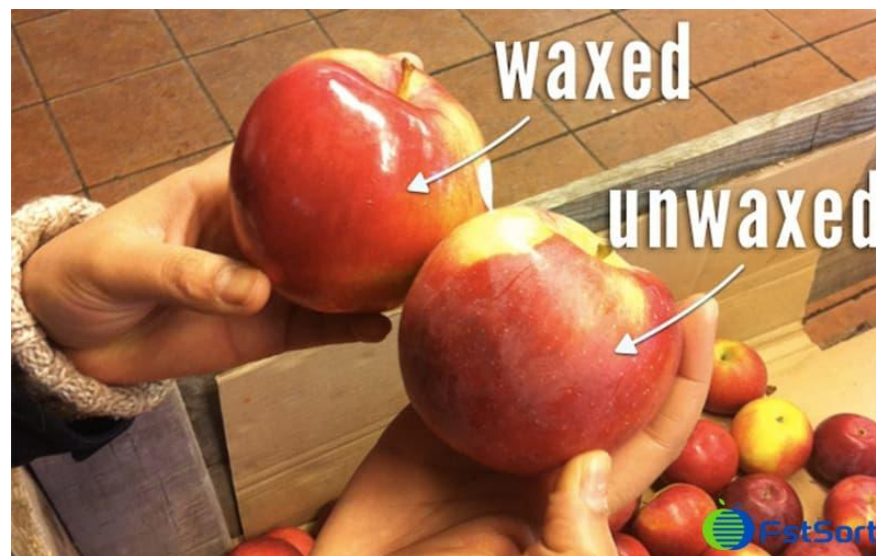
Food like meat, fruit, and vegetables are kept in the refrigerator.





Waxing

Waxing of fruit and vegetables is also common. Apples, oranges, eggplants, and tomatoes are dipped into liquid wax to prevent the growth of fungi and loss of moisture.





Pasteurization

Pasteurization means heating food to a certain temperature for some time, followed by rapid cooling. Heating at a high enough temperature kills most bacteria. However, it does not affect the taste and nutritional value of the food.

Fresh milk, yoghurt drink, and juices are pasteurized to make them last longer.





Boiling

As food is heated and cooked, the heat kills microorganisms. Boiling kills most bacteria. However, those not affected by heat will grow when the conditions are suitable.



Smoking

Smoking is the process of drying food with smoke for a long period of time. This method is mainly used for fish, meat, and fruit such as bananas.

The drying effects of smoke and the chemicals produced from the smoke help to preserve the food.





Food Processing

Food processing is the set of methods and techniques used to transform raw ingredients into food or to transform food into other forms for consumption by humans or animals, either in the home or by the food processing industry.

Food processing typically takes clean, harvested crops or slaughtered and butchered animal products and uses these to produce attractive, marketable, and often long-life food products. Similar processes are used to produce animal feed. Aims of Food Processing To extend the shelf life to allow time for distribution, sales, and home storage.

To increase variety in the diet by providing a range of attractive flavors, colors, aromas, and textures in food (collectively known as eating quality, sensory characteristics, or organoleptic quality). To provide the nutrients required for health (termed the nutritional quality of a food). To generate income for the manufacturing company.



Food Processing

Examples of food processing methods include:

- Chopping
- Mixing
- Homogenizing
- Cooking
- Pasteurizing
- Blanching
- Spray-drying
- Frying
- Baking
- Packaging
- Addition of gas such as air entrainment for bread or gasification of soft drinks



Chopping

Chopping is a food processing technique that involves cutting food into smaller pieces using a knife, food processor, or other cutting tools. This method is commonly used for preparing ingredients for cooking or further processing, ensuring uniformity in size for even cooking and texture.





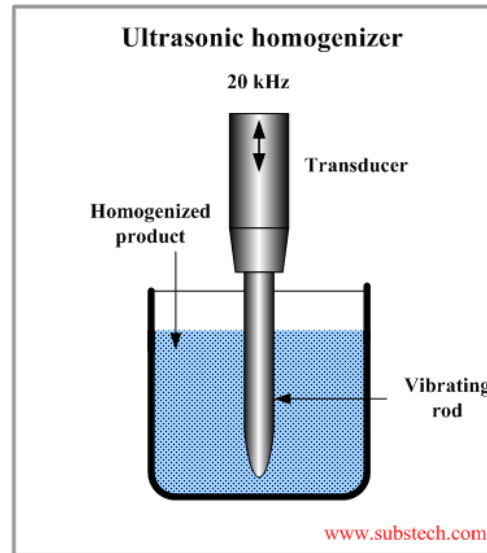
Mixing

Mixing is the process of combining multiple ingredients to achieve a uniform consistency, texture, or composition. It is widely used in baking, sauce production, and dairy processing, ensuring that all components blend well to create a homogenous mixture.



Homogenizing

Homogenizing is a mechanical process that breaks down and evenly distributes fat molecules in a liquid, preventing separation. It is commonly used in dairy processing, particularly in milk production, to ensure a smooth, consistent texture and improve shelf stability.





Cooking

Cooking is the application of heat to food to enhance its flavor, texture, and digestibility while also eliminating harmful bacteria. Various cooking methods, such as boiling, steaming, roasting, and grilling, are used to prepare meals and preserve nutrients.





Pasteurizing

Pasteurization is a heat treatment process that destroys harmful bacteria in food and beverages, extending their shelf life.

Commonly used for dairy products, fruit juices, and canned goods, this method involves heating food to a specific temperature for a set time before rapidly cooling it.



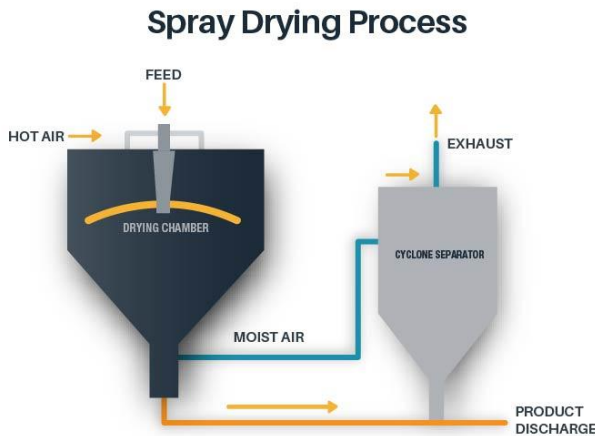
Blanching

Blanching is a short heat treatment process where food, usually vegetables, is briefly boiled or steamed before being rapidly cooled in ice water. This method helps in preserving color, texture, and flavor while also reducing microbial load and enzyme activity.



Spray-Drying

Spray-drying is a dehydration technique where liquid food is turned into powder by rapidly drying it with hot air. This method is used in the production of powdered milk, instant coffee, and other dry food ingredients, helping to improve storage and ease of use.





Frying

Frying is a cooking process where food is submerged in hot oil or fat to create a crispy texture and enhance flavor. It can be categorized into deep frying, pan frying, and stir-frying, depending on the amount of oil used and the cooking method





Baking

Baking is a dry heat cooking method where food is cooked in an enclosed space, such as an oven, using indirect heat. This process is commonly used for making bread, cakes, pastries, and other baked goods, resulting in a firm texture and enhanced flavors.





Packaging

Packaging involves enclosing food products in protective materials to preserve freshness, prevent contamination, and extend shelf life. Various packaging techniques, such as vacuum sealing, modified atmosphere packaging, and aseptic packaging, are used depending on the type of food.





Addition of Gas

Addition of Gas (Air Entrainment/Gasification)

Air entrainment or gasification is a food processing method where gas, such as carbon dioxide, is introduced into food or beverages to alter texture and enhance preservation. This process is commonly used in soft drink production to create carbonation and in bakery products to improve dough aeration.



