



Hair coverings for food preparation

The Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code states in Clause 15 (1) of Chapter 3.2.2:

“A food handler must take all practicable measures to ensure his or her body, anything from his or her body, and anything he or she is wearing, does not contaminate food or surfaces likely to come into contact with food.”

This clause imposes minimum standards of personal hygiene upon all food handlers to ensure that the food is not contaminated. When preparing food, appropriate jewellery, and clothing, as well as suitable protective clothing (hats and aprons) should be worn by food handlers.

Hats serve to prevent inadvertent contact with food handling surfaces and discourage hand to hair contact during food handling.



Food handlers preparing unprotected food must wear hats that fully enclose or cover their hair (top left).

Long hair may require a hat in combination with a hair net to ensure adequate hair enclosure.



Food handlers serving or handing prepared food (bottom left) may wear partial hair covering.

The hair covering must be adequate to prevent loss of hair and/or inadvertent hair contact. Long hair must be tied up.



Failure to comply with this requirement of the Code may result in the food handler being issued a \$250 infringement.

Disclaimer: This document is a guide only. It is not a legal document. For full details refer to the Food Act 2008, Food Regulations 2009 and the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code.