



HOW SAFE IS YOUR MICROWAVE OVEN?

Microwave radiation emission/leakage testing is a test most people take for granted or just do not realise the amount of harm the user may be exposed to.

Microwave ovens use high frequency electromagnetic waves to cook the food. In a properly designed and constructed oven, these high-energy waves are contained entirely within the cooking area. However, if these waves were to leak out, they can result in serious burns to the user. Levels of radiation above 5mW/sq.cm are considered harmful to humans.

Excessive radiation leakage mostly occurs from the door seal or hinge areas, this is often the result of the door being closed too hard (slamming) or basically due to normal wear and tear/usage.

Common reasons for radiation leakage can be attributed to:

- The surface of the door is damaged
- The door does not fit squarely and securely and may not open and close smoothly
- The door hinges are not in good condition
- Corrosion is evident on the door, the door hinges or the oven interior
- The oven is dirty and in particular the door edges and interior surrounds are covered with food or burnt material

The kitchen will usually present a faulty product, whether it be a power board or even a burnt power cord from the sandwich press, toaster or kettle - these faults are usually visual but with radiation leakage you can't smell it or see it.

Stay Safe Test and Tag Services is able to perform tests to AS/NZS 60335.2.25 standards, which specify a minimum leakage test level of less than 5 milliwatts per square centimetre. This ensures your microwave in your workplace or at home is working safely and is not presenting a health risk to your employees or family. Once the test is complete, a sticker will be placed on the unit indicating the radiation level and expiry of test results.