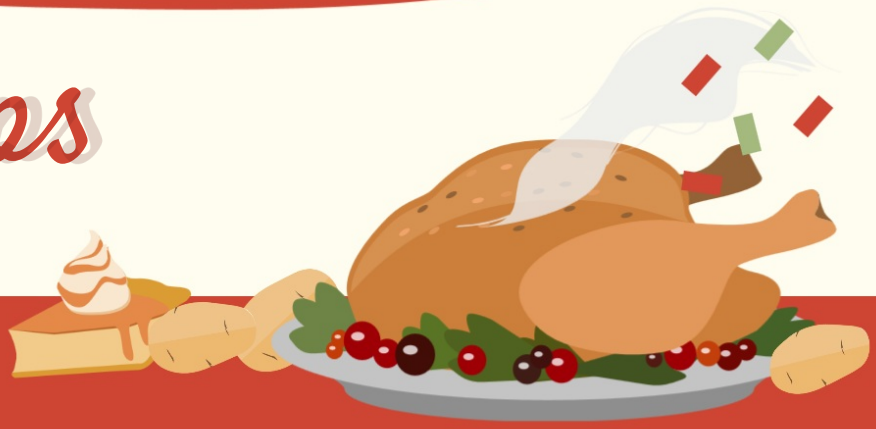
Turkey Tips



Recommended Turkey Thawing Times by Thawing Method

Size of Turkey	Refrigerator	Cold Water	Microwave
4 to 12 pounds	1 to 3 days	2 to 6 hours	Check Manufacturer's Instructions
12 to 16 pounds	3 to 4 days	6 to 8 hours	
16 to 20 pounds	4 to 5 days	8 to 10 hours	
20 to 24 pounds	5 to 6 days	10 to 12 hours	

Recommended Turkey Cooking Times

Size of Turkey	Unstuffed Turkey Hours to Prepare*	Stuffed Turkey Hours to Prepare*
8 to 12 pounds	2 ¾ to 3 hours	3 to 3 ½ hours
12 to 14 pounds	3 to 3 ¾ hours	3 ½ to 4 hours
14 to 18 pounds	3 ¾ to 4 ¼ hours	4 to 4 ¼ hours
18 to 20 pounds	4 ¼ to 4 ½ hours	4 ¼ to 4 ¾ hours
20 to 24 pounds	4 ½ to 5 hours	4 ¾ to 5 ¼ hours

* The times listed are for a fresh or thawed turkey in an oven at 325°F

Acute Disease Service
Oklahoma State Department of Health
Creating a State of Health