

Concept Note: Electric Rice Cooker

Introduction

Electric Rice Cooker is an extremely useful kitchen home appliance. It cooks rice uniformly and efficiently. It is not required to keep tracking the time or water level while cooking. It can also reheat the cooked rice.



Figure 1: Electric Rice Cooker

Operating Principle

The inner pot is filled with rice and the recommended amount of water. Then the cooker is switched ON. The heating element starts heating and transfers heat to the inner pot. Due to heat, the temperature of the water starts rising. The thermostat continuously senses the temperature of the water. Rice gets cooked by absorbing the water. The temperature of the water rises, until it starts boiling. This temperature is called the boiling point of water, which is 100 degrees Celsius. The thermostat senses the boiling point temperature and turns OFF the heating element. No more heat is provided to the inner pot. The temperature of the water cannot rise further and starts converting into steam. Part of the steam is used by the rice and the remaining steam escapes. It condenses on the dew collector in the form of droplets. Rice gets cooked. 'Cook' indicator turns OFF and 'Warm' indicator turns ON.

Parts of Electric Rice Cooker

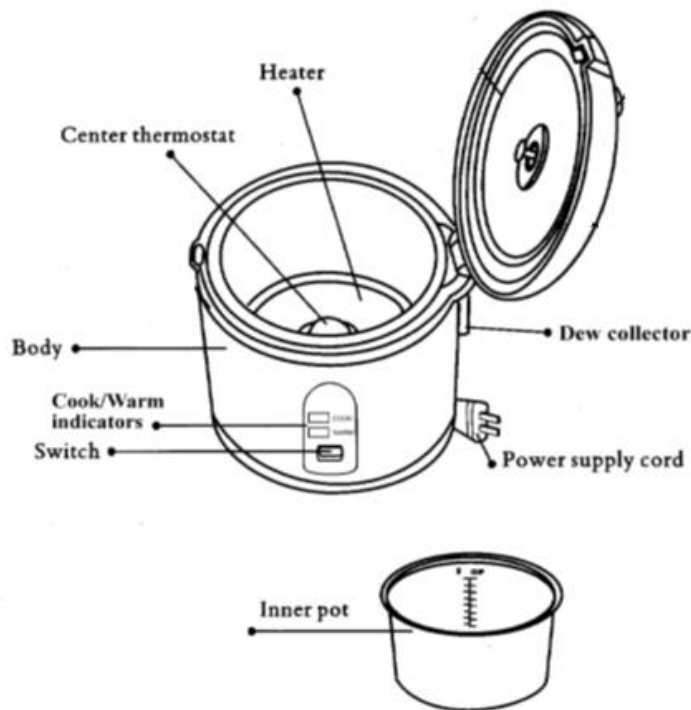


Figure 2: Parts of Electric Rice Cooker

- **Inner Pot:** It is a container that is kept inside the main body. One puts the rice and water in it for cooking.
- **Power Supply cord:** It acts as the medium to supply electric supply from the source to the cooker.
- **Body:** It is the outer part of rice cooker.
- **Switch:** It is used to turn ON/OFF the Rice Cooker.
- **Cook/Warm Indicators:** 'Cook' indicator turns ON when rice is being cooked. 'Warm' indicator turns ON when cooked rice is being kept warm.
- **Heater:** It is the crucial part of the cooker. When supply is turned ON, the heater gets heated and transfers the heat to the inner pot.
- **Centre Thermostat:** It is an instrument which senses the temperature and takes a control action.
- **Dew Collector:** It collects the condensed water from the steam of the cooked rice.

Advantages of an Electric Rice Cooker

- Cooks rice uniformly and perfectly
- Rice does not become sticky

- Portable electric appliance
- No need of gas stove
- Does not require monitoring
- Available in various sizes
- Advanced models can cook other food items

Rice Cooker is an exciting kitchen appliance. It can easily replace the pressure cooker. One can choose different models having advanced features. Such cookers can cook number of food items efficiently.

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