



Steamer Bag FAQ's

♥ What are Homemade Gourmet® Microwave Steamer Bags?

Homemade Gourmet® Microwave Steamer Bags are specially designed for use with our Season 'n' Steam mixes to help you prepare great-tasting, home-cooked meals without the pots and pans by Steaming in a healthy, convenient and safe way. Homemade Gourmet® Microwave Steamer Bags help you get fresh, great-tasting food on the table that your family will love – without slowing you down in the kitchen.

The Homemade Gourmet® custom steamer bags are made from FDA compliant materials that can go from the refrigerator or freezer directly into the microwave. The custom designed bags are self venting and help to retain more minerals, vitamins and moisture within the bag when cooking to give you, our valued customer, the most nutritious, convenient and tasty experience you have ever had in a microwave meal.

♥ How do I use Homemade Gourmet® Microwave Steamer Bags?

Homemade Gourmet® has created and thoroughly tested the Homemade Gourmet® Season 'n' Steam mixes that use the steamer bags in their preparation. For the best results, please follow the directions on the product label exactly as they are written.

There are only three simple steps to cooking with this product: Fill, Cook and Serve.

1. **Fill:** according to instructions on the label
2. **Cook:** according to instructions on the label
3. **Serve:** Always wait at least 30 seconds before opening as hot steam may escape.

♥ How do I know how long to microwave my food?

Homemade Gourmet® has tested and determined this for you based on a 1000 watt microwave*. Follow the directions on the label when preparing the Homemade Gourmet® Season 'n' Steam mixes. You may have to adjust the cooking time if your microwave is not 1000 watts*.

* Microwave oven power varies and you may have to adjust cook times accordingly – just like cooking popcorn in the microwave, once you figure it out, you have it. Also, most microwaves list wattage on a white sticker on the inside of the door. If the wattage is less than 1000, you may need to cook longer; if it is more than 1000, you may need to decrease the cooking time a little.

♥ How do Homemade Gourmet® Microwave Steamer Bags compare to other steamer bags or regular storage bags?

Homemade Gourmet® Microwave Steamer Bags are specially designed to cook your food to perfection all the while capturing more vitamins, minerals and moisture within the bag itself, as there are no openings in the bag for them to escape out of. Your family can experience the convenience and full nutritional value in addition to the more flavorful experience from the foods. Vegetables can be fully cooked yet remain crisp as they were meant to be and not over cooked, soft and mushy.

- The bags are made with ingredients/plastics that comply with FDA regulations, and are safe for microwave cooking
- Gusseted bottom design provides stand-up functionality
 - Easier to fill, season and serve
 - Allows for cooking with moderate amounts of liquid, seasonings or sauces
- Venting mechanism
 - Our patented self venting panel allows for only excess pressure and steam to be vented and therefore acts like a pressure cooker combined with a steamer in the microwave
 - The orange strip located on the front of the bag keeps the vent system air and liquid tight until removed
- Specialized heat resistant materials to perform in the microwave
 - Most storage zipper bags do not have the same level of heat resistance

♥ **Can I use Homemade Gourmet® Microwave Steamer Bags as I would regular plastic storage bags?**

Homemade Gourmet® Microwave Steamer Bags can be used in many of the ways regular plastic storage bags are used – prepping meals in advance, storing leftovers, or freezing prepared or leftover meals. The bags can be used in the refrigerator or freezer. The orange strip located on the front of the bag keeps the vent system air and liquid tight until removed.

♥ **Are Homemade Gourmet® Microwave Steamer Bags reusable?**

No. Homemade Gourmet® recommends using the bags one-time only to avoid cross contamination between foods.

♥ **Do Homemade Gourmet® Microwave Steamer Bags contain BPA (Bisphenol A)?**

NO. Homemade Gourmet® Microwave Steamer Bags are not made of Polycarbonate nor is Bisphenol A (BPA) used as a raw material in their production.

♥ **Will the plastic transfer to my food?**

No. Concern about heating plastics comes from the use of chemical additives known as plasticizers in plastics made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Homemade Gourmet® Microwave Steamer Bags are made with ingredients/plastics that comply with FDA regulations, and are safe for microwave cooking.

For additional information regarding the use of plastics in the microwave, please see the PlasticsInfo.Org website at: <http://www.plasticsinfo.org>.

♥ **A few things to remember when preparing Homemade Gourmet® Season 'n' Steam mixes:**

- ♥ Always use an oven mitt when handling the steamer bag.
- ♥ Allow steamer bag to rest before opening it.
- ♥ These bags are designed to stand up during filling, cooking and stirring. Do not lay the bag on its side or leaking will occur.
- ♥ Occasionally steamer bags will open during cooking. If this happens, proceed as directed. It will not alter the cooking process.
- ♥ You can refrigerate or freeze leftovers in the steamer bag.
- ♥ You can refrigerate or freeze meals prepared in advance in the steamer bag.
- ♥ You can reheat or thaw and reheat leftovers in the same steamer bag.
- ♥ You can prepare the meat, add the seasoning and freeze in the steamer bag until ready to use. (Vegetables need to be added at the time of cooking and not frozen.)

♥ **Note: Any questions not answered here may be emailed to svaden@homemadegourmet.com.**