



# Step-by-Step Fresh Preserving of High-Acid Foods

## Introduction

Because they are relatively easy to preserve, foods containing high amounts of acid are a popular choice for fresh preservers. These foods provide you with the opportunity to prepare and enjoy a wide array of creative recipes, from excellent side dishes to delectable desserts. High-acid foods include fruits, fruit juices, jams, jellies and other fruit spreads, salsas, tomatoes with added acid, pickles, relishes, chutneys, sauces, vinegars and condiments.



## You Will Need

- Tested preserving recipe such as one found in the Ball Blue Book® Guide to Preserving, Ball® Complete Book of Home Preserving or [www.freshpreserving.com](http://www.freshpreserving.com)
- Boiling water canner or a large, deep saucepot with a lid, and a rack (when preserving high-acid foods such as soft spreads like jams and jellies, fruit juice, fruits, pickles and salsas)
- Glass preserving jars with lids and bands (always start with new lids)
- Common kitchen utensils, such as a wooden spoon, ladle and funnel
- Fresh produce and other quality ingredients

### Preserving is easy with these helpful Ball® FreshPreserving™ utensils!

- Jar Lifter
- Magnetic Lid Lifter
- Bubble Remover & Headspace Measuring Tool

## Step 1

READ through recipe and instructions. Assemble equipment and ingredients.

Follow guidelines for recipe preparation, jar size, preserving method and processing time.

## Step 2

CHECK jars, lids and bands for proper functioning. *Jars with nicks, cracks, uneven rims or sharp edges may prevent sealing or cause jar breakage. The underside of lids should not have scratches or uneven or incomplete sealing compound as this may prevent sealing. Bands should fit on jars.* Wash jars, lids and bands in hot, soapy water. Rinse well. Dry bands.

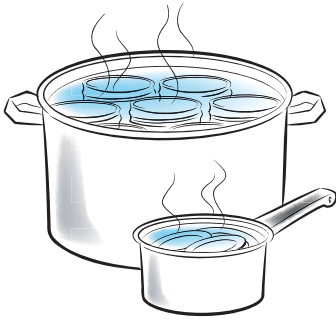




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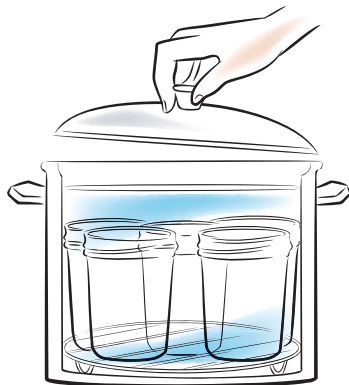
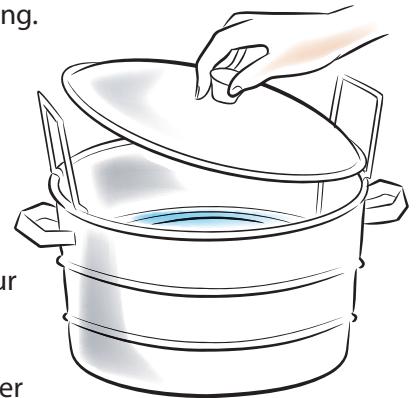
## Step 3

HEAT jars and lids in hot water, not boiling, until ready for use. *Fill a large saucepan or stockpot half-way with water. Place jars in water (filling jars with water from the saucepan will prevent flotation). Bring to a simmer over medium heat. Keep jars hot until ready for use. You may also use a dishwasher to wash and heat jars. Place lids in a small saucepan. Cover lids with water and bring to a simmer over medium heat. Keep lids hot until ready to use. Do not boil lids. Keeping jars hot prevents them from breaking when hot food is added. To prevent seal failure, do not boil lids. Leave bands at room temperature for easy handling.*



## Step 4

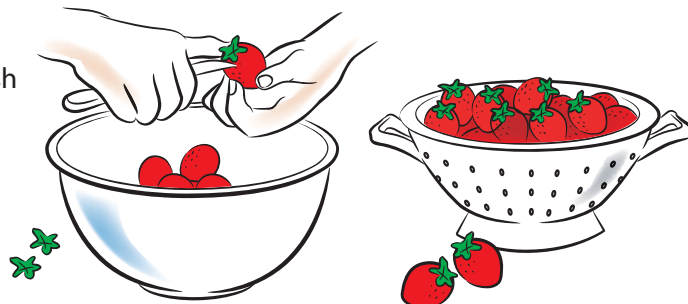
PREPARE boiling water canner by filling half-full with water and keep water at a simmer while covered with lid until jars are filled and placed in canner. Be sure your rack is resting on the rim of the canner or on the bottom, depending on the type of rack you are using. You don't necessarily need to purchase a boiling water canner



if you don't already have one at home. Most kitchens have pots that can double as boiling water canners. *A boiling water canner is simply a large, deep saucepot equipped with a lid and a rack. The pot must be large enough to fully surround and immerse the jars in water by 1 to 2 inches and allow for the water to boil rapidly with the lid on. If you don't have a rack designed for home preserving, use a cake cooling rack or extra bands tied together to cover the bottom of the pot.*

## Step 5

PREPARE tested preserving recipe using fresh produce and other quality ingredients.

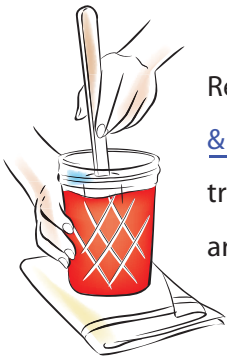
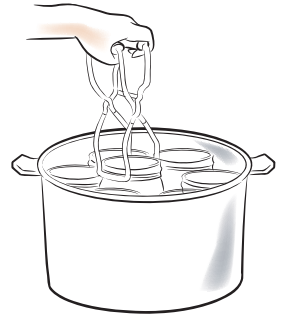




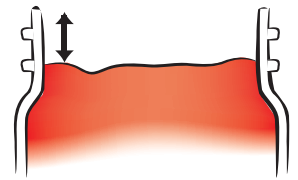
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## Step 6

REMOVE hot jar from hot water, using a [Jar Lifter](#), emptying water inside jar. Fill jar one at a time with prepared food using a [Jar Funnel](#) leaving headspace recommended in recipe (1/4 inch for soft spreads such as jams and jellies and fruit juices; 1/2 inch for fruits, pickles, salsa, sauces, and tomatoes).



Remove air bubbles, if stated in recipe, by sliding the [Bubble Remover & Headspace Tool](#) or rubber spatula between the jar and food to release trapped air and ensure proper headspace during processing. Repeat around jar 2 to 3 times.



## Step 7

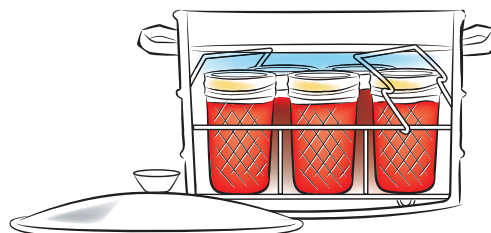
CLEAN rim and threads of jar using a clean, damp cloth to remove any food residue. Remove lid from hot water using a [Magnetic Lid Lifter](#).



Center hot lid on jar allowing sealing compound to come in contact with the jar rim. Apply band and adjust until fit is fingertip tight.



Place filled jars in canner until recipe is used or canner is full. Lower rack with jars into water. Make sure water covers jars by 1 to 2 inches.

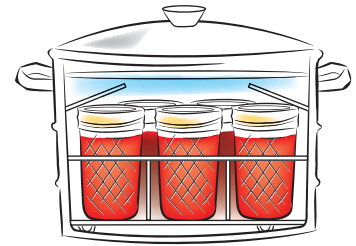




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## Step 8

PLACE lid on canner. Bring water to a full rolling boil. Begin processing time.



## Step 9

PROCESS jars in the boiling water for the processing time indicated in tested preserving recipe, adjusting for altitude ([see altitude chart](#)). When processing time is complete, turn off the heat and remove the canner lid. Allow jars to stand in canner for 5 minutes to get acclimated to the outside temperature.

## Step 10

REMOVE jars from canner and set upright on a towel to prevent jar breakage that can occur from temperature differences. Leave jars undisturbed for 12 to 24 hours. Bands should not be retightened as this may interfere with the sealing process.

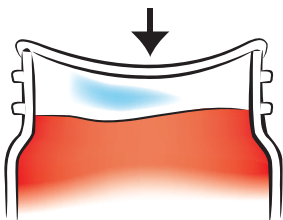


## Step 11

CHECK lids for seals. Lids should not flex up and down when center is pressed.

Remove bands. Try to lift lids off with your fingertips. If the lid cannot be lifted

off, the lid has a good seal. If a lid does not seal within 24 hours, the product can be immediately [reprocessed](#) or refrigerated. Clean jars and lids. Label and store in a cool, dry, dark place up to 1 year.





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