

# Toss That Old Wire Brush!

Information for Pierce County Food Establishments and Residents

Food & Community Safety Program  
3629 South D Street, Tacoma, WA 98418  
(253) 798-6460

## ***Wire bristle brush gone haywire? Time to toss it out!***

*"Guard Your Grill: Patients Accidentally Swallow Wire Brush Bristles,  
Hospital Reports" ...ABC News*



*"Wire From Grill-Cleaning Brush Leads to Woman's Near-Fatal Hospitalization" ...KCPQ*

Example of a wire brush that should be replaced.

If you browse the internet, you will find many examples of people who have been injured by ingesting wires that fall in their food from grill brushes. Don't let this happen to you.

Bristles can become lodged in the throat; tear holes in stomach or intestines, and much worse. Accidentally ingesting these will certainly hurt. But the pain will be in your wallet, too. Medical expenses, and even time lost from work will cost far more than the money and time it takes to replace an inexpensive brush.

***Is your brush starting to fray, wear out or have loose bristles? It's time to replace it.***

### **When to throw it away:**

- If the base where wires are anchored is cracked or damaged.
- If wires are bent in different directions, damaged or missing.
- Before each use, tug on some of the wires with your fingers. If they come loose from the base, throw it away.

***Grilling: In a food establishment or at home.***

### **Safety tips for using wire grill brushes:**

- Don't use the wire grill brush while food is on the grill. Loose wires could fall into food and cause injury.
- Inspect your wire brush each time before you use it.
- Replace when needed.