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## OVEN MITTS

Published July 1, 2005. From Cook's Illustrated.

Oven mitts once cost no more than the Sunday newspaper, but today a high-tech pair runs \$60. We braved trials by fire, water, and grease to uncover the (very) painful truth.

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RESULTS KEY Good: ★★★ Fair: ★★ Poor: ★ N/A: —

PRODUCT TESTED HEAT PROTECTION DEXTERITY DURABILITY PRICE\*

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED



**Kool-Tek Protective Apparel Oven Mitt**

Everything we want in a mitt—except maybe the price. Mostly Nomex (heat resistant to 450 degrees) with a "racing stripe" of Kevlar (heat resistant to 1,000 degrees), the Kool-Tek won fans for its natural grip, easy dexterity, and stay-cool comfort.

★★★

★★★

★★★

\$32.95, 12-inch glove; \$40.95, 15-inch glove

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED



**Parvin Flameguard Oven Mitt**

★★★

★★★

★★

\$2.66, 17-inch pair



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**Oven Mitt**  
Almost as many fans as the winner—especially for its comfortable dexterity and "just the right amount of padding"—but some found the length "a bit cumbersome." Don't set this one on fire.

RECOMMENDED WITH RESERVATIONS



**Duncan's Kitchen Grips Oven Mitt**  
The "weird flatness" was annoying and testers with small hands disliked the 2 to 3 inches of useless space at the top. The stylized shape made one tester feel like "a gingerbread man" (and not in a good way).

★ ★

★ ★

★ ★

\$14.95, 11-inch pair; \$19.95, 15.5-inch pair

RECOMMENDED WITH RESERVATIONS



**Ritz Quilted Oven Mitt**  
The bulky padding that made for awesome heat protection also made the task of maneuvering pans "a major pain."

★ ★ ★

★

★ ★

\$13.95, 12-inch pair

NOT RECOMMENDED



**Orka Oven Mitt**  
The heat-protection champ, but testers hated almost everything else about it. The raised grip on the mitt portion was too bulky, and the interior quickly got sweaty. "Falling! Falling!" warned one tester, who couldn't feel the edges of the cookie sheet.

★ ★ ★

★

★ ★ ★

\$19.99, 11 in; \$29.99, 17 in

NOT RECOMMENDED



**Kitchen Supply Mitt Glove**  
Overly insulated finger compartments sapped this design of

★ ★

★ ★

★

\$13.95, 12-inch pair



dexterity. During the washing test, the steak grease stained permanently and some of the padding came out.

NOT RECOMMENDED



**Charcoal Companion Suede Gloves**

★ ★★ ★★

\$12.95, 13-inch pair

Nice-looking, comfortable, and easy to manipulate, but these gloves got very hot—and quickly. The pair we tested has yet to recover from the barbecue-sauce test.

NOT RECOMMENDED



**Lincoln Electric Welder's Gloves**

★ ★★ ★★

\$14.95, 12-inch pair

"Welders must be tougher than I am," said one tester once the heat made it through the suede exterior. The delayed penetration gave testers a false sense of comfort—then rudely disturbed it.

NOT RECOMMENDED



**The 'Ove' Glove**

★ ★★ ★★

\$19.99, 10-inch pair

Everyone was eager to try the famous mitt from the TV ad, but no one trusted it. "It looks like a child's snow glove," said one staffer. And it worked about as well. This Kevlar/Nomex mitt lacked the layer of padding that pushed our winner to the top.

NOT RECOMMENDED



**LamsonSharp Oven Mitt**

★ ★★ ★★

\$23.95, 17-inch pair

The best-looking mitt of the bunch was the worst when it came to heat protection. Although in the past we've liked LamsonSharp leather

potholders, they have  
a two-ply design—  
unlike the one-ply  
gloves.

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\*Prices subject to change.



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