

## Bird Kitchen Safety Rules

**Follow these rules toward better kitchen safety for your pet bird**

*By Susan Chamberlain*

Keep your bird safe from household toxins.

Courtesy Nicole Steinmeyer, New York

You are your bird's best defense against household toxins! Do be aware that smoke from burned-on food, grease and other debris inside your oven can be deadly to your birds. Do not house your birds in the kitchen. Locate birds in an area where fumes and smoke will not drift into their airspace. Do not rely on air filters or purifiers to remove toxic fumes from the air. Use a range hood that vents to outdoors, or use a window fan to blow air out of the kitchen. Open windows for a few minutes, at least once a day, even in chilly weather. Never leave cooking unattended. Instead of using chemicals or self-cleaning oven cycles, wipe oven surfaces with a solution of white vinegar and water after each use. Use a steel wool pad to rub off stubborn dirt. Some readers report success using a hand-held steam-cleaning machine to clean their ovens.