





What is a solar cooker?



A **solar oven** or **solar cooker** is a device that uses sunlight as its energy source.

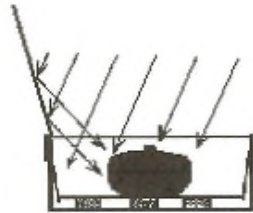
Solar cookers are popular because:

-  Health & Safety -- In under-developed countries, women and children are not forced to walk increasingly farther distances to bring home supplies of cooking fuel. Women and children are less likely to suffer from burns and illnesses caused by smoke inhalation from wood fires, or from drinking contaminated water.
-  Energy efficient and pollution - free -- Solar cookers use no fuel, just free energy from the sun
-  Emergency preparedness -- able to prepare meals even when the power is out.
-  Fun -- Solar cookers can be used in the backyard, on boats, on a mountaintop, camping, picnics, anywhere

3 main types of solar cookers

Panel Cookers

Panel cookers consist of several shiny reflector panels that gather the sunrays. The food is cooked in a pot that is placed into an oven cooking bag. The bag acts like a greenhouse and traps the heat inside. Temperatures reach 150 - 225 degrees. The "CookKit" Foldable Panel and the "Hot Pot" are two examples of panel cookers.



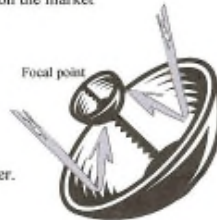
Box Cookers

Box cookers trap the heat inside to make an oven. In general, the cooker is made from two boxes separated by insulation. The inside box is painted black to trap the heat. The top is covered with glass, plexiglass, or acrylic. Reflector panels reflect the sunrays down into the box. Temperatures reach 250 - 300 degrees.

Global Sun Oven is considered the best box cooker on the market
The "Sport" solar oven is also a popular cooker.

Parabolic Cookers

Parabolic cookers are often made from old satellite dishes. The sunrays are reflected up from the curved surface of the dish to a focal point, where the pot sits. Parabolic cookers reach extreme temperatures that can fry food and pop corn. The "Solar Burner" is an example of a parabolic cooker.



What do they have in common? All must have sunshine to cook!

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