

AMA urges caution with use of wire-bristle BBQ grill brushes

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(HealthDay)—The American Medical Association (AMA) states that

caution should be exercised with use of wire-bristle grill brushes due to the potential health and safety risks associated with bristles that may break off and adhere to the grill or cooked food.

The AMA adopted a new policy at its annual meeting last month, calling on the federal government to require warning labels on all wire-bristle [grill](#) brushes. Anyone who cleans their grill with a wire-bristle brush should be aware of the possibility that the [bristles](#) can break off and stick to the food being cooked on the grill. These bristles have been known to cause injury and can lead to a surgical [emergency](#) in some cases when ingested.

According to the AMA, between 2002 and 2014, more than 1,600 emergency department visits occurred as a result of wire-bristle brush injuries, approximately 130 per year. Based on a 2016 study, most of these injuries involved the mouth, throat, and tonsils; some injuries required surgery.

"We urge everyone to take simple precautions to avoid [injury](#) and prevent a trip to the emergency department, including wiping the grill down after using it and inspecting it for wire bristles before cooking food," AMA President Barbara L. McAneny, M.D., said in a statement. "We wish everyone safe grilling and a healthy holiday!"

More information: [More Information](#)

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