

Risk assessment: Popcorn machine

This assessment is based on the manufacturer's guidance and experience from extensive use of the equipment.

Date issued: 1 October 2026 | Next review: 1 October 2027 | Assessed by: Candy Floss Events

Who might be harmed

- Staff (operatives)
- Guests
- Children
- Venue staff

Rating key

Harm: 1 = minor cuts or bruising; 5 = death

Likelihood: 1 = highly unlikely; 5 = highly likely

Risk score = harm × likelihood

Low 1–5	Medium 6–10	High 11+
------------	----------------	-------------

Risk assessment table

Hazard	Existing control measures	Harm (1–5)	Likelihood (1–5)	Risk score	Further controls
Electrical shock	• PAT test is current. • All cables checked before use. • Check that the electricity supply has an RCD.	5	1	5 Low	• Do not use in wet conditions. • Switch off the machine and remove the plug from the socket when unsupervised.
Lifting	• Delivered on a cart, ready for use. • Operatives should not lift the popcorn machine if they suffer from back problems. • Always lift with at least two people.	4	2	8 Medium	• Check the area where the machine is going to stand. • Gloves are always available. • Ask for assistance if needed.
Food poisoning	• Machine delivered in a clean condition. • Never use consumables that are out of date or whose vacuum pack has been opened.	3	2	6 Medium	• Always use a reputable supply company. • Do not supply any product that is past its sell-by date.
Mess on floor	• Try to scoop popcorn inside the machine. • Almost unavoidable, but the immediate area can be swept. • Supervised by staff.	1	5	5 Low	• Serve everyone individually. • Remove the popcorn machine if guests are inebriated.
Falling of the machine	• Hold the popper by hand when moving. • Test that the chosen surface / stand is level and stable.	4	1	4 Low	• Use a strap to secure the machine to the standing area if there is any movement.
Hot oil and burns	• Keep hands and face clear of the hot kettle and oil. • Children kept away from the machine.	3	2	6 Medium	• Allow the machine to cool before cleaning or moving it.
Fire	• Keep the machine clear of flammable materials.	5	1	5 Low	• Machine is never left unattended while heated.
Trailing cables and trip hazards	• Position the machine and cables so they are not in walkways.	2	2	4 Low	• Cable cover used over any cable crossing a walkway.
Allergens	• Caramel popcorn contains soy. • Plain popcorn is the safer default.	4	1	4 Low	• Refer to the allergen information sheet. • Guests with severe allergies to contact us in advance.

Hazard	Existing control measures	Harm (1-5)	Likelihood (1-5)	Risk score	Further controls
Hand hygiene	- Wash hands before serving. - Keep equipment and serving area clean.	3	1	3 Low	Keep serving items covered and clean.
Crowds and children	- Staff attend the stall at all times. - Queue managed.	3	2	6 Medium	Children kept at a safe distance from the machine.

All control measures are to be applied at every event. This assessment is reviewed annually, or sooner if equipment, procedures or circumstances change.