

A brief history of culinary inventions from Prehistory to the 20th century

Prehistory

-700 000	bifacial stone tools
-500 000	domestication of fire
-160 000	smoking of meat
-17 500	pottery
-17 500	spear-thrower for hunting
-15 000	cereal flatbread
-10 000	farming tools (sickle, axe, grinding stone...) beer
-7000	animal traction
-6000	irrigation system terracotta containers
-5800	bread oven
-5000	curd strainer
-4500	swing-plough
-4000	noodles

Antiquity to 18th century

-3500	alembic
-3000	cane sugar
-250	oyster farming
-150	animal-powered mill
1050	plough
1130	leaven
1420	artificial fertilisation of fish roe
1450	mechanical butter churn
1495	first whisky distillery opens
1555	poacher for flatfish (<i>turbotière</i>)
1679	steam digester (Papin's pressure cooker)
1688	champagne
1701	mechanical sower
1747	extraction of beet sugar

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1749	writings on bird breeding
1751	dough-kneading machine
1762	sandwich
1788	mechanical thresher
1789	portable cooker
1795	appertisation

19th century

1806	coffee percolator
1810	tin can
1812	manufacture of beet sugar
1815	industrial dairy industrial biscuits
1828	cocoa powder
1829	Pluchet's adjustable plough
1830	ice cream maker
1831	mechanical harvester
1833	cast-iron stove
1835	artificial fertiliser
1836	industrial bakery
1837	gas cooker
1851	autoclave
1854	portable stove
1858	tin opener refrigerating machine
1862	milking machine
1865	pasteurisation
1866	tin with a key opener
1869	margarine
1870	industrial production of sausages
1875	milk chocolate refrigerating boat
1876	compressor refrigerator
1879	centrifugal cream separator saccharin smooth chocolate

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1881	steam tractor
1886	<i>Coca-Cola</i> <i>Maggi Seasoning</i>
1890	aluminium pan
1892	isothermal bottle
1893	electric toaster
1894	electric kettle

20th century

1900	mechanical chopper
1906	freeze drying
1908	selective breeding by hybridisation <i>Melitta</i> coffee filter
1911	cheese spread
1913	domestic refrigerator
1915	<i>Pyrex</i> glass
1919	crawler tractor
1922	<i>Esquimau</i> ice lolly
1923	deep-frozen food portable electric beater
1924	biodynamic agriculture
1926	polyvinyl chloride (PVC)
1929	<i>Économe</i> peeler
1930	deep-frozen food widely available supermarket
1932	mechanical potato masher
1933	hybrid maize
1935	beer can
1938	<i>Nescafé</i>
1939	dual temperature refrigerators dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT)
1943	<i>Tetra Pak</i> packaging
1945	invention of the microwave oven <i>Tupperware</i> reusable plastic containers frozen ready-made meals
1946	electric coffee grinder

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1948	electric mixer
1951	UHT process for preserving milk
1953	<i>SEB</i> pressure cooker microwave ovens widely available
1954	<i>Teflon</i> frying pan
1955	application of freeze drying
1958	dough divider for industrial bakeries
1960	vacuum cooking
1963	dehydrated potato flakes plastic bottle
1967	steam oven
1970	France rules on irradiation
1971	multifunctional food processor
1972	genetically modified organisms (GMOs)
1973	barcode polyethylene terephthalate (PET)
1975	blast chiller
1983	transgenic plant
1986	<i>Nespresso</i> capsule
1987	ready-to-eat bagged salad
1990	induction cooker
1996	Dolly, the first cloned mammal
1997	transgenic corn widely available
1999	ready-made meal in self-heating packaging vertical farming