

Recommended Food Storage Chart

The following charts provide general recommended storage times from date of purchase for various food products stored under optimum conditions. Storage generally is not recommended under conditions where no time is listed in the chart. For maximum shelf-life, consumers should always purchase fresh food and never temperature abuse food.

Food	Pantry (Room Temperature)	Refrigerator (33°F to 40°F)	Freezer (0°F)
Bread and Cereal Products			
Baked quick breads	4-5 days	1-2 weeks	2-3 months
Bread	5-7 days	1-2 weeks	3 months
Bread crumbs and croutons	6 months		
Bread rolls, unbaked		2-3 weeks	1 month
Cereals, ready-to-eat	1 year 2-3 months*		
Cereals, ready-to-cook	6 months		
Corn meal	1 year	18 months	2 years
Doughnuts	4-5 days		3 months
Flour, cake, all-purpose	1 year		1-2 years
Flour, whole wheat		6-8 months	1-2 years
Pasta	2 years		
Pies and pastries		3 days	4-6 months
Pies and pastries, baked			1-2 months
Pies and pastries, cream filled		2-3 days	3 months
Pizza		3-4 days	1-2 months
Rice, brown	6 months		
Rice, white	1 year	6-7 days+	6 months+
Tacos, enchiladas, and burritos (frozen)		2 weeks	1 year
Waffles		4-5 days	1 month
Packaged Foods and Mixes			
Biscuit, brownie, and muffin mixes	9 months		

Cakes, prepared	2-4 days		2-3 months
Cake mixes	6-9 months		
Casserole mix	9-12 months		
Chili powder	6 months		
Cookies, packaged	2 months		8-12 months
Crackers, pretzels	3 months		
Frosting, canned	3 months		
Frosting, mix	8 months		
Fruit cake		2-3 months	1 year
Hot roll mix	18 months		
Instant breakfast products	6 months		
Pancake and piecrust mix	6 months		
Pancake waffle batter		1-2 days	3 months
Toaster pastries	3 months		
Sauce and gravy mixes	6 months		
Soup mixes	1 year		
Spices, Herbs, Condiments, Extracts			
Catsup, chili, and cocktail sauce	1 year 1 month*	6 months	
Herbs	6 months		1-2 years
Herb/spice blends	2 years 1 year *		1-2 years
Mustard	2 years	6-8 months*	8-12 months
Spices, ground	6 months		1-2 years
Spices, whole	1-2 years		2-3 years
Vanilla extract	2 years 1 year*		
Other extracts	1 year		
Other Food Staples			
Bacon bits	4 months		
Baking powder	18 months		
Baking soda	2 years		
Bouillon products	1 year		

Carbonated soft drinks (12 oz. cans)	6-9 months		
Carbonated soft drinks, diet (12 oz. cans)	3-4 months		
Chocolate, premelted	1 year		
Chocolate syrup	2 years	6 months*	
Chocolate, semisweet	2 years		
Chocolate, unsweetened	18 months		
Cocoa mixes	8 months		
Coconut, shredded	1 year 6 months*	8 months	1 year
Coffee cans	2 years 2 weeks*	2 months	6 months
Coffee, instant	6 months 2 weeks*		
Coffee, vacuum-packed	1 year ^		
Coffee lighteners (dry)	9 months 6 months*		1 year
Cornstarch	18 months		2 years
Gelatin	18 months		
Honey, jams, jellies, and syrup	1 year	6-8 months*	
Marshmallows	2-3 months		
Marshmallow cream	3-4 months		
Mayonnaise	2-3 months	12 months 2 months*	
Molasses	2 years		
Nuts, shelled	4 months	6 months	
Nuts, unshelled	6 months		
Nuts, salted			6-8 months
Nuts, unsalted			9-12 months
Oil, salad	3 months^ 2 months*		
Parmesan grated cheese	10 months 2 months*		
Pasteurized process cheese	3 months	3-4 weeks*	4 months

spread			
Peanut butter	6 months 2-3 months*		
Popcorn	1-2 years	2 years	2-3 years
Pectin	1 year		
Salad dressings, bottled	1 year^	3 months*	
Soft drinks	3 months		
Artificial sweetener	2 years		
Sugar, brown	4 months		
Sugar, confectioners	18 months		
Sugar, granulated	2 years		
Tea bags	18 months		
Tea, instant	2 years		
Vegetable oils	6 months 1-3 months*		
Vegetable shortening	3 months	6-9 months	
Vinegar	2 years 1 year*		
Water, bottled	1-2 years		
Whipped topping (dry)	1 year		
Yeast, dry	Pkg. exp. date		
Vegetables			
Asparagus		2-3 days	8 months
Beets		2 weeks	
Broccoli		3-5 days	
Brussels sprouts		3-5 days	
Cabbage		1 week	
Carrots		2 weeks	
Cauliflower		1 week	
Celery		1 week	
Corn (husks)		1-2 days	8 months
Cucumbers		1 week	
Eggplant		1 week	
Green beans		1-2 days	8 months
Green peas		3-5 days	8 months
Lettuce		1 week	

Lima beans		3-5 days	8 months
Mushrooms		2 days	
Onions	1 week	3-5 days	
Onion rings (precooked, frozen)			1 year#
Peppers		1 week	
Pickles, canned	1 year	1 month*	
Frozen potatoes			8 month
Sweet potatoes	2-3 weeks		
White potatoes	2-3 months		
Potato chips	1 month		
Radishes		2 weeks	
Rhubarb		3-5 days	
Rutabagas	1 week		
Snap beans		1 week	
Spinach		5-7 days	8 months
Squash, Summer		3-5 days	
Squash, Winter	1 week		
Tomatoes		1 week	
Turnips		2 weeks	
Commercial baby food, jars	1-2 years^	2-3 days	
Canned vegetables	1 year^	1-4 days*	
Canned vegetables, pickled	1 year^	1-2 months*	
Dried vegetables	6 months		
Frozen vegetables			8 months
Vegetable soup		3-4 days	3 months
Fruits			
Apples	Until ripe	1 month	
Apricots	Until ripe	5 days	
Avocados	Until ripe	5 days	
Bananas	Until ripe	5 days (fully ripe)	
Berries	Until ripe	3 days	1 year
Canned fruit	1 year	2-4 days*	
Canned fruit juices	1 year	3-4 days*	

Cherries	Until ripe	3 days	
Citrus fruit	Until ripe	2 weeks	
Dried fruit	6 months	2-4 days+	
Frozen fruit			1 year
Fruit juice concentrate		6 days	1 year
Fruit pies, baked		2-3 days	8 months
Grapes	Until ripe	5 days	
Melons	Until ripe	5 days	
Nectarines	Until ripe	5 days	
Peaches	Until ripe	5 days	1 year
Pears	Until ripe	5 days	1 year
Pineapple	Until ripe	5-7 days	1 year
Plums	Until ripe	5 days	
Dairy Products			
Butter		1-2 months	9 months
Buttermilk		2 weeks	
Cottage cheese		1 week	3 months
Cream cheese		2 weeks	
Cream-light, heavy, half-and-half		3-4 days	1-4 months
Eggnog commercial		3-5 days	6 months
Margarine		4-5 months	12 months
Condensed, evaporated and dry milk	12-23 months^	8-20 days*	
Milk		8-20 days	
Ice cream and sherbet			2 months
Hard natural cheese (e.g. cheddar, swiss)		3-6 months 4 weeks*	6 months
Hard natural cheese, sliced		2 weeks	
Processed cheese		1 month	6 months
Soft cheese (e.g. brie)		1 week	6 months
Pudding		1-2 days*	
Snack dips		1 week*	
Sour cream		2 weeks	
Non-dairy whipped cream, canned		3 months	

Real whipped cream, canned		3-4 weeks	
Yogurt		2 weeks	1-2 months
Meats, Poultry, Eggs and Fish			
Meats			
Fresh beef and bison steaks		3-5 days	6-9 months
Fresh beef and bison roasts		3-5 days	9-12 months
Fresh pork chops		2-3 days	4-6 months
Fresh lamb chops		3-5 days	6-8 months
Fresh veal		1-2 days	4-6 months
Fresh ground meat (e.g. beef, bison, veal, lamb)		1 day	3-4 months
Cooked meat		2-3 days	2-3 months
Canned meat	1 year	3-4 days*	3-4 months
Ham, whole		1 week	1-2 months
Ham, canned	1 year	1 week*	3-4 months
Ham, canned "keep refrigerated"		6-9 months 1 week*	3-4 months
Shelf-stable unopened canned meat (e.g. chili, deviled ham, corn beef)	1 year	1 week*	
Ham, cook before eating		1 week	
Ham, fully cooked		2 weeks 1 week*	
Ham, dry-cured	1 year	1 month	
Ham salad, store prepared or homemade		3-5 days	
Bacon		2 weeks 1 week*	1 month

Corned beef, uncooked		5-7 days	1-2 months
Restructured (flaked) meat products			9-12 months
Sausage, fresh		1-2 days	1-2 months
Smoked breakfast sausage links, patties		1 week	2 months
Sausage, smoked (e.g. Mettwurst)		1 week	1-2 months
Sausage, semi-dry (e.g. Summer sausage)		2-3 weeks*	6 months
Sausage, dry smoked (e.g. Pepperoni, jerky, dry Salami)	1 year	1 month*	6 months
Frankfurters, bologna		2 weeks 3-5 days*	1-2 months
Luncheon meat		2 weeks 3-5 days*	1 month
Meat gravies		1-2 days	2-3 months
TV beef and pork dinners			18 months#
Meat based casseroles		3-4 days	4 months
Variety meats (giblets, tongue, liver, heart, etc.)		1-2 days	3-4 months
Vinegar pickled meats (e.g. pickled pigs feet)	1 year^	2 weeks*	
Fish			
Breaded fish			4-6 months
Canned fish	1 year	1-2 days*	
Cooked fish or seafood		3-4 days	3 months
Lean fish (e.g. cod, flounder, haddock)		1-2 days	6 months
Fatty fish (e.g. bluefish, salmon, mackerel)		1-2 days	2-3 months
Dry pickled fish		3-4 weeks	
Smoked fish		2 weeks	4-5 weeks

Seafood-clams, crab, lobster in shell		2 days	3 months
Seafood-oysters and scallops		1-2 days	3-4 months
Seafood-shrimp		1-2 days	1 year
Seafood-shucked clams		1-2 days	3-6 months
Tuna salad, store prepared or homemade		3-5 days	
Poultry and Eggs			
Chicken nuggets or patties		1-2 days	
Chicken livers		1-2 days	3 months
Chicken and poultry TV dinners			6 months
Canned poultry^	1 year	1 day*	
Cooked poultry		2-3 days	4-6 months
Fresh poultry		1 day	1 year
Frozen poultry parts			6-9 months
Canned poultry		1 day	3 months
Poultry pies, stews, and gravies		1-2 days	6 months
Poultry salads, store prepared or homemade		3-5 days	
Poultry stuffing, cooked		3-4 days	1 month
Eggs, in shell		3-5 weeks	
Eggs, hard-boiled		1 week	
Eggs, pasteurized		10 days 3 days*	1 year
Egg substitute		10 days 3 days*	1 year
Egg yolks (covered in water)		2-4 days	1 year
Egg whites (For each cup of egg yolk add 1 Tbs. of sugar or salt)		2-4 days	1 year
Wild Game			
Frog legs		1 day	6-9

			months
Game birds		2 days	9 months
Small game (rabbit, squirrel, etc.)		2 days	9-12 months
Venison ground meat		1-2 days	2-3 months
Venison steaks and roasts		3-5 days	9-12 months