

"Best If Used By" Dates

The "Best If Used By" date is intended to tell you how long the product will retain best flavor or quality. The term is not a safety date. "Best If Used By" dates are intended as useful guidelines. Some foods may deteriorate more quickly and other foods may last longer than times suggested. A number of factors can shorten the useful life of a food product, such as improper handling and inadequate storage temperatures. The inventory control method of first-in-first-out (FIFO) should be practiced by those responsible for managing commodity inventories and distribution at the local level. Products kept past the "Best If Used By" date are not necessarily out of condition. Food products may be eaten after the "Best If Used By" date if the product has been properly stored, handled, and the primary container is in good condition.

Group A	0° F Or Below
Frozen Fruit	
Apple Slices, Frozen	18 Months
Blackberries, Frozen	18 Months
Blueberries, Frozen	18 Months
Cherries, Frozen	24 Months
Orange Juice, Frozen	24 Months
Orange Juice, Single Service Cartons, Frozen	9 Months
Peaches, Frozen	18 Months
Peaches, Individual Cups, Frozen	18 Months
Strawberries, Sliced, IQF, Frozen	15 Months
Frozen Vegetables	
Beans, Green, Frozen	12 Months
Carrots, Frozen	24 Months
Corn, Frozen	24 Months
Corn Cobbetts, Frozen	9 Months
Peas, Frozen	14 Months

Potato, Oven Type, Wedges	12 Months
Potato, Rounds, Frozen	12 Months
Potato, Wedges, Frozen	12 Months
Sweet Potatoes, Frozen	12 Months
Frozen Meat/Meat Alternatives	
Beef, Ground, Bulk, Frozen	9 Months
Beef, Patties, 100%, w/VPP & Lean, Frozen	4 Months
Beef Roasts, Frozen	12 Months
Chicken Parts, Cooked, Breaded, Frozen	4 Months
Chicken, Leg Quarters, Frozen	8 Months
Chicken, Cut Up, Frozen	8 Months
Chicken Meat, Cooked, Diced, Frozen	6 Months
Eggs, Frozen, Whole	12 Months
Ham, Cooked, Boneless, Frozen	1-2 Months
Pork, Ground, Frozen	9 Months
Pork, Sausage, Bulk, Frozen	3 Months
Pork, Sausage, Patties, Frozen	3 Months
Salmon Nuggets, Frozen	6 Months
Turkey Burgers, Frozen	4 Months
Turkey, Ground, Frozen	3 Months
Turkey, Ham, Frozen	4 Months
Turkey, Roast, Frozen	7 Months
Turkey, Sausage, Chubs, Frozen	3 Months
Turkey , Whole, Frozen	9 Months

**"Best If Used By" Dates for Commodities Distributed To Schools
Based On DOD 4145.19-R-1**

Group A

Not every item on the list is currently available and some items are no longer purchased. Some items currently in inventory may not appear on this list.

Fruit	40° F	70° F
Applesauce, cnd	48 Months	24 Months
Apple Slices, cnd	48 Months	24 Months
Apricots, cnd	48 Months	24 Months
Cherries, cnd	48 Months	24 Months
Mixed Fruit, cnd	48 Months	24 Months
Peaches, cnd	48 Months	24 Months
Pears, cnd	36 Months	18 Months
Pineapple, cnd	48 Months	24 Months
Plums, cnd	36 Months	18 Months
Prunes, Pitted, Dried	18 Months	9 Months
Raisins, Seedless	18 Months	9 Months
Beans, Dried		
Beans, Blackeye	24 Months	12 Months
Beans, Great Northern	24 Months	12 Months
Beans, Light Kidney	24 Months	12 Months
Beans, Red Kidney	24 Months	12 Months
Lentils	24 Months	12 Months
Beans, Lima	24 Months	12 Months
Beans, Navy Pea	24 Months	12 Months
Beans, Split Pea	24 Months	12 Months

Beans, Pinto	24 Months	12 Months
Beans, Small Red	24 Months	12 Months
Vegetables		
Beans, Vegetarian, cnd	48 Months	24 Months
Beans, cnd dry	72 Months	36 Months
Beans, Refried, Low Fat, cnd	72 Months	36 Months
Beans, Green, cnd	48 Months	24 Months
Carrots, cnd	60 Months	30 Months
Corn, cnd	72 Months	36 Months
Peas, cnd	72 Months	36 Months
Salsa, cnd	48 Months	24 Months
Spaghetti Sauce, Meatless, cnd	48 Months	24 Months
Sweet Potatoes, cnd	48 Months	24 Months
Tomato Paste, cnd	36 Months	18 Months
Tomato Products, cnd	48 Months	24 Months
Meat/Meat Alternate		
Beef NJ, cnd	60 Months	36 Months
Pork NJ, cnd	60 Months	36 Months
Poultry, cnd	60 Months	36 Months
Salmon, Pink, cnd	72 Months	36 Months
Salmon, pouches	72 Months	36 Months
Tuna, cnd	72 Months	36 Months
Special Handling Required		
Date Pieces	Refrigerate 38-40° F	5 Months

	Freeze 0° F or below	12 Months
Fig Nuggets	Store 55° F or below	12 Months
Plum/Prune Puree	Store in cool, dry area.	9 Months
Egg Mix, dry	Store in cool, dry place.	15 Months

CHEESES:

Processed American or Cheddar	In original package at 32° F After opening at 30-35° F, well wrapped	18 Months 3-4 Weeks
Mozzarella	In original package at 0° F or below After opening at 30-35° F, well wrapped	12 Months 3-4 Weeks
Lite Mozzarella	In original package at 38-42° F	5 Months
Reduced Fat Cheddar	In original package at 32-40° F	5 Months

Group B

Not every item on the list is currently available and some items are no longer purchased. Some items currently in inventory may not appear on this list.

	40° F	70° F
Bakery Mix, Regular and Low Fat	12 Months	6 Months
Flour, All Types	24 Months	12 Months
Cornmeal	24 Months	12 Months
Grits, Corn	24 Months	12 Months
Oats, Rolled	24 Months	12 Months
Pasta Products	72 Months	36 Months
Rice, Milled	48 Months	24 Months

Peanut Butter, Regular and Reduced Fat	36 Months	18 Months
Peanut Granules	60 Months	24 Months
Peanuts, Roasted	60 Months	24 Months
Vegetable Shortening	48 Months	24 Months
Vegetable Oil	24 Months	12 Months
Salad Oil Dressing	24 Months	12 Months
Salad Oil Dressing, Reduced Calorie	8 Months	5 Months
Wheat, Rolled, Quick	24 Months	12 Months
Non-fat Dry Milk	24 Months	12 Months
Honey	48 Months	24 Months
Special Handling Required		
Bulgur (Cracked Wheat)	Store in cool, dry place	Use within 4 Months
Brown Rice	At 36-40° F At 50-70° F	6 Months 3 Months
Butter	At 32-35° F	1 Month