

Bakery Items

Product	Shelf Storage Past Code Date	Refrigerator Storage Past Code Date	Freezer Storage Past Code Date
Bagels	1 day	7 days	6 months
Bread	4 days	14 days	6 months
Sliced French, loaf, etc	1 day	14 days	6 months
Cakes	2 days	7 days	2 months
Chocolate (unfrosted)	2 days	7 days	4 months
Pound cake	4 days	7 days	6 months
Cookies	3 weeks	2 months	10 months
Croissants	1 day	7 days	2 months
Danish	2 days	7 days	2 months
Muffins	2 days	7 days	2 months

Refrigerated Foods Extensions

Product	Storage Life Past Code/Consume by Date
Beverages	
Juices	
High Acid juices, pasteurized (tomato, orange, grapefruit, etc.)	7 days
Odwalla, Naked Juice (100% juice and smoothies)	7 days
Punches, juice blends	14 days
Dairy Products	
Butter	1-3 months
Cheeses	6 months
Hard cheese (cheddar, swiss, etc.)	
Shredded Cheese (parmesan, mozzarella, etc.)	1 month
Cottage Cheese	21 days
Cream Cheese	60 days
Dips (sour cream based)	14 days
Eggs (whole)	5 weeks
EggBeaters (egg substitute)	60 days
Margarine	1-3 months
Milk (dairy)	7 days
Milk (non-dairy soy, rice, almond, coconut)	10 days
Sour Cream	21 days
Whipping Cream/Aerosol Whipped Cream	30 days
Yogurt	10 days
Deli Products	
Fruit, cut	1 day
Hot Dogs, Lunch Meats (bologna, Ham, etc.)	1 day or up to 6 months if frozen
Lunchables	1 day
Pesto	1 day
Salad (pre-made/kit)	1 day
Salsa	1 day
Sandwich (pre-made)	1 day
Sushi	1 day
Dough Products	
Cookie Dough	consume/freeze by code date
Pasta (fresh)	2 days
Pie Crust (ready-to-bake)	consume/freeze by code date
Tube Cans (biscuits, rolls, pizza dough, etc.)	consume by code date
Soy Products	
Dips (soy/tofu based)	7 days
Soy Milk	7 days
Tofu (all varieties)	21 days



Code dates on products do not mean that food is unfit for consumption!
Please refer to these handy guidelines for code date extensions.

Shelf-Stable Foods Extensions		
Product	Storage Life Past Code Date	
Staples		
Beans, Dried (pinto, red, black, etc)	12 months	
Canned Goods Low Acid (meats, beans, corn, soup, etc.)	5 years	
	High Acid (pineapple, tomatoes, pickles, etc.)	18 months
Cereal (hot and cold varieties)	12 months	
Coffee, (and Decaf)	Ground in Cans	2 years
	Instant	5 years
Egg Noodles, Dry	2 years	
Flour	White	12 months
	Whole Wheat	1 month
Pasta, Dry (spaghetti, macaroni, penne, etc.)	2 years	
Rice	Brown Rice	12 months
	White or Wild	2 years
Sugar	Brown, Raw	4 months
	White, Granulated	2 years
Beverages		
Bottled Water (all varieties)	12 months	
Capri Sun	2 months	
Cocoa, Cocoa Mixes	indefinitely	
Crystal Light	2 months	
IZZE Sparkling Beverage	12 months	
Juice Boxes/shelf stable bottled juice	6 months	
Powdered Drink Mix	6 months	
Powdered (Dry) Milk	2 Years	
Sodas	Diet (cans or bottles)	3 months
	Regular (cans or bottles)	9 months
Tetrapak: Milks, juices, broths	1 year	
Condiments & Snacks		
Beef Jerky	12 months	
Chocolate Syrup	2 years	
Condiments (bbq sauce, jam/jelly, ketchup, mayo, mustard, salsa, salad dressing, syrup, olive/vegetable oil)	12 months	
Cookies, Packaged	2 months	
Crackers (Saltines, Ritz, Triscuits, etc.)	8 months	
Evaporated Milk	12 months	
Extracts	4-5 years	
Granola Bars (Nutrigrain, Nature Valley, etc.)	12 months	
Microwave Popcorn	18 months	
Peanut Butter	9 months	
Popcorn (dry kernels)	2 years	
Slim Jims	18 months	
Spices	Fresh Spices	5-7 days
	Ground or Dried Spices	2-3 years
	Whole Spices	3-4 years
Vegetable Oil Spray	2 years	
Vinegar	2 years	

This information is to be used as a guide only. It was developed based on general knowledge, industry practices, and the understanding that best before dates are about sensory quality. All information taken from the Food Marketing Institute www.fightbac.org, EatByDate LLC www.eatbydate.com, Food Banks Canada www.foodbanksbc.com, and Feeding America "Donor Requirements & Restrictions"