

Food Safety at Food Pantries



An important part of keeping food at your food pantry is making sure the food is safe to eat. Know what you can do to help keep the food you offer safe.

Items To Reject:

- Cans with dents in seams
- Cans with deep dents in body
- Swollen cans
- Leaking cans or cans with holes
- Boxes or cans without a label

Questions To Ask:

- Where did this donation come from?
Items without labels should not be accepted.
- Is it expired?
You are not required to dispose of expired foods that are not time or temperature controlled for safety. However, their taste and nutrition may not be the same as it once was. Additionally, you are required to discard expired baby food, formula and medications.

Things To Remember:

- Store all items away from walls and 6 inches off the floor.
This will make it easier to keep your facility clean and see if pests are a problem.
- Clean shelving and carts often.
- Keep dry-storage areas dry.
Too much moisture will cause cans to rust and cardboard to deteriorate and will provide good living conditions for pests.

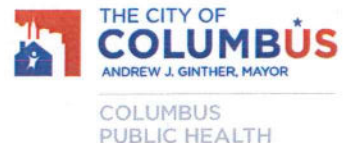
Keep In Mind:

- You have the right to reject food.
If donated food appears to be damaged, expired, lacks a label or seems unsafe, you do not have to accept it.

Food Safety Resources from Columbus Public Health:

- Training classes for food industry professionals
- Toolkit with educational food safety posters

Learn more online at www.columbus.gov/foodprotection.



Questions about food safety?
Call 614-645-7005 or visit
www.columbus.gov/foodprotection.