



Worksheet 1 - Buffet culture Food storage cheat sheet

Food Item	Storage Time	Packaging
Baking powder	1 year	
Baking soda	2 years	
Beans and peas, dried	18 months	
Biscuit mix	12-18 months	
Bread crumbs	2-4 months	
Cake, brownie and cookie mixes	1 year	
Canned fruit	1 year	Unopened
Canned meats and gravies	1 year	Unopened
Canned vegetables	1 year	Unopened
Cereals, ready to eat	6-12 months 2-3 months	Unopened Opened
Cereals, hot	1 year	
Chocolate chips, semi-sweet	1 year	
Chocolate, unsweetened	18 months	
Cocoa powder	2 years	
Coconut, grated	1 year	Unopened
Coffee, ground	3-5 months (after printed date) 3-5 months	Unopened After Opening
Coffee, instant	2 years	
Coffee, whole bean	6-9 months (after printed date) 6 months	Unopened Opened
Cookies, packaged	2-4 months	
Commeal	1 year	
Cornstarch	18 months	
Crackers	6 months	
Croutons	6 months	
Flour, cake	6 months	
Flour, white	10-15 months	Opened, in air tight container





Flour, whole wheat	6-8 months	Opened in fridge
Frosting, canned	8 months	Unopened
Fruit, dried	6 months	
Gelatin	12-18 months	
Grits, instant	8 months	
Grits, regular	10 months	
Hot chocolate mixes	6-12 months	
Infant formula	12-18 months	
Jelly, jam and preserves	1 year 8 months	Unopened Opened in fridge
Juice, canned citrus	6 months	Unopened
Juice, canned non-citrus	1 year	Unopened
Ketchup, barbeque sauce	1 year 5 months	Unopened Opened in fridge
Marshmallows	3 months	
Mayonnaise	4 months 2 months	Unopened Opened in fridge
Milk, evaporated	1 year	Unopened
Milk, non-fat powdered	1-2 years	
Milk, sweetened condensed	1 year	Unopened
Mustard	2 years 1 year	Unopened Opened in fridge
Nuts, unshelled	8 months	
Oils (canola, corn and vegetable)	1-2 years 6-8 months	Unopened Opened
Oil, olive	2 years	
Onions	4-6 weeks	Dry dark place with lots of air circulation
Pancake mix	6 months	
Pasta, dried	2 years	Once opened keep in airtight containers
Peanut butter	6-9 months	
Pickles, olives, relishes	1 year 3 months	Unopened Opened in fridge
Popcorn, unpopped kernels	1-2 years	
Popcorn, microwaveable	6-8 months	





Potatoes, white or sweet	3-5 weeks	Dry dark place with lots of air circulation
Potatoes, instant	1 year	
Pudding mixes	8-12 months	
Rice, brown	1 year	
Rice, mixes	6 months	
Rice, white	2 years	
Salad dressing	10 months 3 months	Unopened Opened in fridge
Salt	Indefinitely	
Sauces, condiments	1 year	Unopened
Shortening	8 months 6 months	Unopened Opened
Soft drinks	6-9 months	Unopened
Spices and herbs, dried and ground	1-2 years	Airtight containers, discard when scent fades
Spices, dried and whole	2-3 years	Airtight containers, discard when scent fades
Sports drinks, bottled	9 months	
Stuffing mix	6 months	
Sugar, brown	4 months	
Sugar, granulated	2 years	
Sugar, powdered	18 months	
Tea, bags and loose	6-12 months	
Tea, instant	1 year	
Vinegar (balsamic, cider, rice, red wine, white, and white wine)	Indefinitely	Do not store in metal
Yeast, active dry	Follow package date	

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¹ Source: <https://www.home-storage-solutions-101.com/food-storage-chart.html>

