

## Refrigerator & freezer storage chart

Since product dates aren't a guide for safe use of a product, consult this chart and follow these tips. These short but safe time limits will help keep refrigerated food 40° F (4° C) from spoiling or becoming dangerous.

- Purchase the product before "sell-by" or expiration dates.
- Follow handling recommendations on product.
- Keep meat and poultry in its package until just before using.
- If freezing meat and poultry in its original package longer than two months, overwrap these packages with airtight heavy-duty foil, plastic wrap, or freezer paper, or place the package inside a plastic bag. Because freezing 0° F (-18° C) keeps food safe indefinitely, the following recommended storage times are for quality only.

Product	Refrigerator	Freezer	Product	Refrigerator	Freezer
<b>Eggs</b>			<b>Raw hamburger, ground &amp; stew meat</b>		
Fresh, in shell	4 to 5 weeks	Don't freeze	Hamburger & stew meats	1 to 2 days	3 to 4 months
Raw yolks, whites	2 to 4 days	1 year	Ground turkey, veal, pork, lamb	1 to 2 days	3 to 4 months
Hard cooked	1 week	Don't freeze well	<hr/>		
Liquid pasteurized eggs or egg substitutes, opened	3 days	Don't freeze	<b>Ham, corned beef</b>		
unopened	10 days	1 year	Corned beef in pouch with pickling juices	5 to 7 days	Drained, 1 month
Mayonnaise, commercial			Ham, canned, labeled "Keep Refrigerated," unopened	6 to 9 months	Don't freeze
Refrigerate after opening	2 months	Don't freeze	opened	3 to 5 days	1 to 2 months
<hr/>			Ham, fully cooked, whole	7 days	1 to 2 months
<b>TV dinners, frozen casseroles</b>			Ham, fully cooked, half	3 to 5 days	1 to 2 months
Keep frozen until ready to heat		3 to 4 months	Ham, fully cooked, slices	3 to 4 days	1 to 2 months
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<b>Deli &amp; vacuum-packed products</b>			<b>Hot dogs &amp; lunch meats (in freezer wrap)</b>		
Store-prepared (or homemade) egg, chicken, tuna, ham, macaroni salads	3 to 5 days	Don't freeze well	Hot dogs, opened package	1 week	1 to 2 months
Pre-stuffed pork & lamb chops, chicken breasts stuffed w/dressing	1 day	Don't freeze well	unopened package	2 weeks	1 to 2 months
Store-cooked convenience meals	3 to 4 days	Don't freeze well	Lunch meats, opened package	3 to 5 days	1 to 2 months
Commercial brand vacuum-packed dinners with USDA seal, unopened	2 weeks	Don't freeze well	unopened package	2 weeks	1 to 2 months

Product	Refrigerator	Freezer	Product	Refrigerator	Freezer
<b>Soups &amp; stews</b>			<b>Fresh poultry</b>		
Vegetable or meat-added & mixtures of them	3 to 4 days	2 to 3 months	Chicken or turkey, whole	1 to 2 days	1 year
<b>Bacon &amp; sausage</b>			Chicken or turkey, parts	1 to 2 days	9 months
Bacon	7 days	1 month	Giblets	1 to 2 days	3 to 4 months
Sausage, raw from pork, beef, chicken or turkey	1 to 2 days	1 to 2 months	<b>Cooked poultry, leftover</b>		
Smoked breakfast links, patties	7 days	1 to 2 months	Fried chicken	3 to 4 days	4 months
Summer sausage labeled "Keep Refrigerated," unopened	3 months	1 to 2 months	Cooked poultry dishes	3 to 4 days	4 to 6 months
opened	3 weeks	1 to 2 months	Pieces, plain	3 to 4 days	4 months
<b>Fresh meat (beef, veal, lamb, &amp; pork)</b>			Pieces covered with broth, gravy	3 to 4 days	6 months
Steaks	3 to 5 days	6 to 12 months	Chicken nuggets, patties	3 to 4 days	2 months
Chops	3 to 5 days	4 to 6 months	<b>Fish &amp; shellfish</b>		
Roasts	3 to 5 days	4 to 12 months	Lean fish	1 to 2 days	6 months
Variety meats (tongue, kidneys, liver, heart, chitterlings)	1 to 2 days	3 to 4 months	Fatty fish	1 to 2 days	2 to 3 months
<b>Meat leftovers</b>			Cooked fish	3 to 4 days	4 to 6 months
Cooked meat & meat dishes	3 to 4 days	2 to 3 months	Smoked fish	14 days	2 months
Gravy & meat broth	1 to 2 days	2 to 3 months	Fresh shrimp, scallops, crawfish, squid	1 to 2 days	3 to 6 months
			Canned seafood (Pantry, 5 years)	<i>after opening</i> 3 to 4 days	<i>out of can</i> 2 months



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