



Storage Times for the Refrigerator and Freezer

These short but safe time limits for home-refrigerated foods will keep them from spoiling or becoming dangerous to eat. The guidelines for freezer storage are for quality only. Frozen foods remain safe indefinitely.

CATEGORY	FOOD	REFRIGERATOR (40°F OR BELOW)	FREEZER (0°F or Below)
Salads	Egg, chicken, ham, tuna and macaroni salads	3-5 days	Does not freeze well
Hot dogs	Opened package Unopened package	1 week 2 weeks	1-2 months 1-2 months
Luncheon meat	Open package or deli sliced Unopened package	3-5 days 2 weeks	1-2 months 1-2 months
Bacon and sausage	Bacon Sausage, raw — from chicken, turkey, pork, beef	7 days 1-2 days	1 month 1-2 months
Hamburger and other ground meats	Hamburger, ground beef, turkey, veal, pork, lamb and mixtures of these	1-2 days	3-4 months
Fresh beef, veal, lamb and pork	Steaks Chops Roasts	3-5 days 3-5 days 3-5 days	6-12 months 4-6 months 4-12 months
Fresh poultry	Chicken or turkey, whole Chicken or turkey, pieces	1-2 days 1-2 days	1 year 9 months
Soups and stews	Vegetable or meat added	3-4 days	2-3 months
Leftovers	Cooked meat or poultry Chicken nuggets or patties Pizza	3-4 days 3-4 days 3-4 days	2-6 months 1-3 months 1-2 months

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We develop and promote effective education programs to reduce foodborne illness risk for consumers.







