

Food Donation Guidelines

This quick reference sheet will guide you and your staff to properly prepare donations for Table to Table pickups. Please distribute to all department managers to promote efficient procedures and ensure that food safety regulations are followed.



DAIRY, EGGS & PERISHABLE BEVERAGES

- Refrigerated at 40°F or below (NO freezing)
- Incomplete dozens of eggs are acceptable
- Dairy donations are accepted after the product date and before the following:

≥ 3 DAYS	≥ 7 DAYS	≥ 21 DAYS
Fluid dairy (milk, half & half, etc.), Refrigerated juice, Perishable beverages, Soy milk, Cottage cheese	Cream cheese Soft cheese Sour cream, Yogurt	Eggs, Butter Margarine Hard Cheese



DELI & PREPARED

- Fresh deli product can be accepted within 3 days of product date (Ex: potato salad)
- Prepackaged potato salads, coleslaws, etc can be accepted within 1 day of product date.
- Deli meat can be accepted within 3 days of product date OR 180 days if frozen before product date.
- Hot prepared foods properly chilled to 40°F or below, labeled and dated, (Unable to accept food served or placed on a buffet.)



MEAT, FISH & POULTRY

- Raw meat must be chilled to 40°F and within the product date
- Frozen meat, fish and poultry (frozen within 24 hours of the product date)
- Frozen meat is accepted up to 180 days after product date
- We **DO NOT** accept donations of meat/seafood meant to be consumed raw (ex: sushi, oysters)



PRODUCE

- At least 75% of the whole /uncut produce must be usable
- Cut and bagged produce can be accepted up to 2 days past cut date
- Cut produce must be refrigerated at 40°F or below
- Use discretion for quality



DRY GOODS / NON-PERISHABLE

- Soft packed (Ex: cereal, crackers, dried pasta, rice, etc): Up to 60 days after product date
- Canned and jarred goods (Ex: soup, condiments, fish, etc): Up to 180 days after product date



FROZEN

- Accepted up to 180 days after product date
- If double packaged, outer package damage is OK
- Product must be completely frozen prior to donating



BAKED GOODS

- If frozen, accepted up to 3 months after product date

- If not frozen, accepted up to 3-5 days past product date (use discretion for quality)



NON-FOOD / NON-TRADITIONAL DONATIONS

- Baby food/formula: only accepted before product date
- Non-food items may be accepted on a case-by-case basis
 - This includes: paper products, personal items, cleaning supplies, laundry supplies, hygiene products, water, health items, etc.
- Cookware and appliances

- We **DO NOT** accept pet products, medicine, clothing, decorations, household items, or seasonal items (flip flops, greeting cards, etc.)



WE CANNOT ACCEPT

- Food that:
 - has been served or placed on a buffet
 - has been previously reheated
 - was not kept at the appropriate temperature for more than 2 hours
 - has damaged or compromised packaging, resulting in the loss of a sanitary barrier
 - contains alcohol
- Off color or discoloration of product (use discretion for produce)
- Food with signs of mold, fungus, insects or decay
- Thawed and refrozen product or product with severe freezer burn
- Broken or chipped glass in packaging
- Home prepared, home canned or home jarred products

Discarding food that does not meet the above criteria is not a waste; you are actually protecting the at-risk hunger community that we help feed together.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Andrea Ibarra at aibarra@tabletotable.org or 551-255-6884

Thank you for your donation!