

DONATION GUIDELINES

DIRECT TO AGENCY

prepared + prepackaged products

These guidelines apply to food rescue partners donating products prepared or packaged on-site
Example: restaurants, hotels, commissaries, food service facilities, bakeries, caterers and "grab & go" locations



PACKAGED DRY PRODUCTS

- Must be completely covered, wrapped in food-grade packaging i.e. closed bag of rolls, muffins, bagels
- Accepted within 2 days after product date or if frozen, 180 days



PREPARED FOODS

- Prepared or packaged meals (i.e. sandwiches cooked onsite) are accepted within 2 days of the product date
- Manufactured, prepared food (i.e. prepackaged coleslaw) can be accepted within 2 days of the product date
- Freezing prepared products is preferred if possible because it gives agencies more time to utilize the donation
- Cooked/prepared protein can be refrigerated, and raw meat/seafood should be frozen prior to donation (see guidelines for more information)

ADDITIONAL CATEGORIES

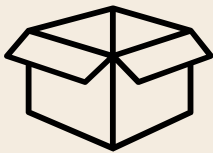
See other guidelines for manufactured prepared and pre-packaged, dairy products, meat/soy, bakery/frozen and non-perishable



DONATION HANDLING

- Foods must be prepared in a commercial kitchen
- Food must be kept in staging area and/or kitchen (i.e. product meant to be served by staff, not self-serve)
- Thawed meals must be kept in a refrigerator at 41F or below
- Frozen meals must be kept in a freezer at 0F or below
- Hot held food must be held at a minimum of 135F and then cooled properly prior to donation
 - Meals must be cooled quickly if previously held hot (methods ice water bath, rapid chill units, cold paddle, decrease portions, etc.) down to 70F in 2 hours, down to 41F within 4 additional hours

Continued on Back



PACKAGING

- Each dish must have its own, food-safe container
- Foods containing allergens must be stored separately
- Food must be completely wrapped or packaged
- All donations must be labeled, except whole produce
- We recommend creating pre-printed labels with blanks for donation date and description
- The label must include:
 - Name of donor, food description, date of donation, and allergen statement
 - EXAMPLE LABEL TEXT: *"Warning! this container holds rescued food. This food may contain, have come into contact with, or have been produced in a facility which also produces milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, wheat, soybeans, and/or sesame seeds"*



WE CANNOT ACCEPT

- Food showing signs of tampering, mold, decay, or insects
- Food to be consumed raw (i.e. sushi, oysters)
- Dented or rusted canned goods
- Food packaged in boxes that previously held meat
- Foods that have been previously reheated
- Food that has been held at improper temperatures or hot held for more than 4 hours

Food Finders and our agencies must follow all health safety laws and regulations when accepting any food donation, especially when considering prepared food donations. Any agency using prepared food must have someone present with Safe Food Handling Certification.

QUESTIONS

Contact us at gsauceda@foodfinders.org or 562-283-1400 x105 or x105

Thank you for your donations!

