

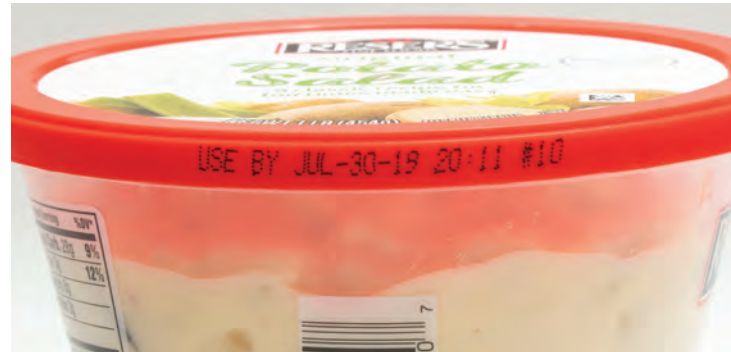
What do food date labels really mean?

With one exception, it's not about food safety.

The dates on food labels are set by manufacturers to indicate when they recommend consuming the product for peak quality. With the exception of infant formula, products are still safe to eat after this date if they have been stored properly. Trust your senses! If food looks and smells okay, it probably is.



Sell by:
Manufacturer's date to tell store how long to display item for sale.



Best before/Best by/Use by:
Manufacturer's recommended date for optimal flavor/quality.

Food Storage Tips



Immerse limp greens in ice water for 30 minutes or place them upright in a glass of water for a few hours to spruce them up.

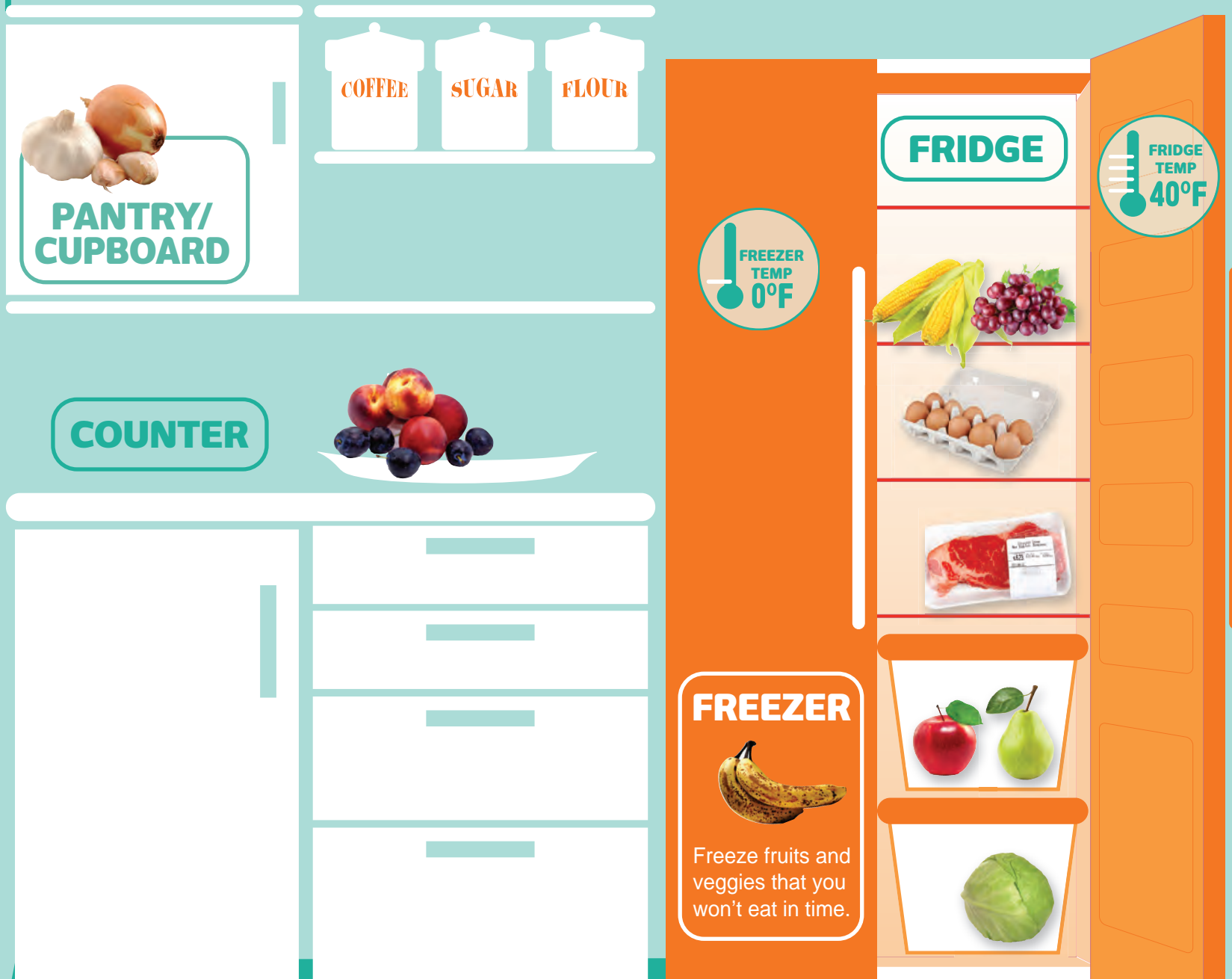


Certain fruits can cause other fruits to spoil faster if stored together. Keep ripe bananas, avocados, apples and tomatoes stored away from other fruit.



Always refrigerate cut or peeled produce and store them in clear containers so you can see what's inside.

KEEP IT FRESH! Food Storage Guide Waste Less, Save More.



www.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste

Alternate Formats Available
Interpretation services available
206-477-4466 • TTY Relay 711

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FRUITS

Do not wash until ready to use

VEGETABLES

Do not wash until ready to use

Refrigerator: High-Humidity Crisper Drawer



Tomatillos
Store in a paper bag



Strawberries
Store in breathable bag or container

Refrigerator: Low-Humidity Crisper Drawer



Apples
Store in breathable bag or container, away from other fruits and vegetables



Tropical Fruits (ripe)
kiwis, mangoes, papayas, pineapples



Stone Fruits
peaches, plums, nectarines, apricots



Citrus Fruits
lemons, limes, oranges, grapefruit



Cherries



Pears (ripe)

Store loose

Refrigerator: Shelf



Blueberries
Store in sealed container



Raspberries, blackberries, and grapes
Store in breathable bag or container



Melons (ripe)



Avocados (ripe)

Store loose



Asparagus
Trim ends, store upright in water with loose plastic bag over top



Corn on the Cob
Keep in husks, store loose, if husked – store in airtight container



Ginger
Store in sealed container



Mushrooms
Store in paper bag



Eggs



Butter

Store in original packaging



Cheese
Store in wax or parchment paper



Fish, meat and Poultry
Store in original or airtight packaging

Counter



Bananas
Store loose, away from other fruits and vegetables



Avocados (not ripe)
Store in paper bag



Tomatoes
Store out of direct sunlight



Pears (not ripe)



Tropical Fruits (not ripe)
kiwis, mangoes, papayas, pineapples



Melons (not ripe)

Store loose

Cupboard or Pantry



Garlic and Shallots



Winter Squash

Store loose



Onions
Store loose or in mesh bag away from potatoes



Potatoes
Store loose or in paper bag away from onions



Beans and Black-eyed Peas



Rice

Store in original or airtight container



Bread
Store in paper bag

Store in breathable bag or container



Green Beans, Wax Beans, Snap Peas, Fresh Peas



Celery



Cauliflower



Bok Choy



Greens, hearty or leafy

Store with damp cloth in sealed container



Cucumbers



Herbs (other than basil)

Store with damp cloth in breathable bag or container



Root Vegetables
beets, carrots, parsnips, radishes, turnips



Zucchini and Summer Squash



Broccoli and Broccolini



Brussels Sprouts



Peppers



Green Onions, Scallions

Store in breathable bag or container

OTHER FOOD



TOO GOOD TO WASTE



Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

Waste Prevention • Resource Recovery • Waste Disposal