



Food Retention Guidelines Quick Reference Guide

Deli Meats (Defrosted)	Defrosted deli meats such as; turkey ham and turkey breast have a 7-day shelf life from date thawed.
Milk	When expired or spoiled, milk has a “best use by” date, but if the milk is expired or spoiled, discard the milk.
Canned Goods	Canned goods such as; diced peaches and pinto beans have an 18 month shelf life from the date of manufacture.
Seasonings	Seasonings and spices such as; black pepper and oregano have a 2-year shelf life from date of receipt.
In-House Made Tuna Salad/Dressings	In house made products such as; ranch dressing and tuna salad have a 7-day shelf life after the prepared date.
Frozen Meats	Frozen meat items such as; beef hamburger patties and deli meats have a 7-month shelf life from date received. If the product shows signs of defrosting and or refreezing, discard product.
Infant Formula	Same day as opened or when expired.

According to the USDA there are no universally accepted descriptions used on food labels for dating in the United States. As a result, there are a wide variety of phrases used on labels.	
“Use By”	A “Use-By” date is the last date recommended for the use of the product while at peak quality. It is not a safety date, except for when used on infant formula.
“Best By ”	A “Best By/Before” date indicates when a product will be of best flavor or quality. It is not a purchase by or safety date.