

# DECODING FOOD SAFETY CODES



## SELL-BY DATES

Tells a store how long to keep a product displayed. This is not a food safety date.



## BEST-BY DATES

The date recommended for best flavor or quality. Not a safety date. This is not a purchase or safety date.



## USE-BY DATES

The last date recommended for best flavor or quality. This is not a safety date except when used on infant formula.



## CODED DATES

Packing numbers that appear on shelf-stable food. Not an expiration date. Date is used by product manufacturer.

IF A FOOD ITEM IS PAST THE “BEST BY”, “SELL BY” OR “USE BY” DATE, IT DOES NOT MEAN IT’S NOT SAFE.

🔗 UNSURE IF A FOOD PRODUCT HAS GONE BAD? 🔗  
TRUST YOUR SENSES!

If the packaging is **rusty**, **dented**, **swollen**, or **open** then toss it.

If it **looks** bad, **smells** bad and/or **tastes** bad then toss it.