

Thank you for helping us feed Arizona families.

To ensure food safety, please follow these guidelines for ALL donated product.

- **Packaging:** Sealed, unopened, labeled, with a visible code date (except for whole produce). Exterior packaging damage is acceptable if the interior packaging remains intact.
- **Condition:** No mold, leaks, off-odor, or severe dents/rust near seams.
- **Storage:** Keep at safe temperatures — Refrigerated at 40°F or below | Frozen at 0°F or below.
- **Separation:** Prevent cross-contamination. Ex: Keep raw meat away from produce.
- **Not Accepted:** Alcohol, opened or unlabeled items, visibly spoiled food.

For the health and safety of our neighbors, food that does not meet the specified criteria should be thrown away. A helpful rule of thumb — please don't donate items you won't eat in a few days.

When considering a donation of perishable foods, remember, it takes 3-5 days to reach the dinner table.

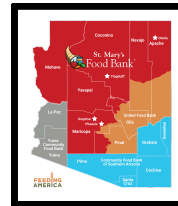
Why does it take 5 days?



Day 1
Donations are received at St. Mary's Food Bank.



Day 2
Food is inspected, sorted, packed, and allocated.



Day 3
Food is sent to more than 600 partner agencies and distribution sites across 81K square miles of AZ.



Day 4
Food is distributed to hungry individuals and families.

► Visit these resources for more information:

Still Tasty: <https://www.StillTasty.com>

Food Keeper: <https://www.foodsafety.gov/keep-food-safe/foodkeeper-app>

Bill Emerson Act: <https://www.congress.gov/104/crpt/hrpt661/CRPT-104hrpt661.pdf>

Please note: We are not able to return re-usable bins, crates or totes.

Product Category	Acceptable	Not Accepted
Baby Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Wet” baby food accepted from retail/wholesale donors only • Donate 21 days before code date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Wet” baby foods from individual, residential, or food drive donors
Bakery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sealed retail packaging • Labeled with all ingredients • Up to 3 days past code date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loose, unwrapped, open or unsealed packaging • Unlabeled product
Beverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soda and energy drinks: 9 mo past code • Juices: Shelf stable 18 months past code date • Water: no code date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcoholic beverages • Opened, unlabeled
Bulk foods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepted on a case-by-case basis • Please call St. Mary’s with any large bulk items 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items intended for restaurant dispensing/mixing machines • Ice cream mixes/bases
Dry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry storage, keep 6” off the ground • Keep non-food, pet food, and food items separated • Canned/jarred: 18 mo. past code date • Dry food (ex: cereal, nuts, bars, granola, rice, pasta): 12 mo. past code date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damaged/torn interior packaging • Dents along can seam • Rust • Original label missing • Items without ingredient labels
Snack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chips and crackers: 3 months past code date • Candy: 9 months past code date • Dried fruits: 6 months past code date • Shipper displays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items not labeled for retail • Torn interior packaging
Non-Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diapers, hygiene items, household cleaners, paper products, and OTC medications • OTC meds and supplements at least 21 days before code date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescription medications, bleach, pool chemicals, industrial cleaners, bulk or commercial sized cleaners, pesticides, hand sanitizers, light bulbs, plants, alcohol, charcoal, appliances or clothing
Pet Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog and cat foods only • Pet foods must be kept separated from food intended for human consumption • Donate up to 12 months past code date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opened
Seasonal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edible pie pumpkins only • Edible items only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carving pumpkins • Flowers or plants • Loose candies not labeled for individual sale

Schedule a donation pickup at
fooddonations@stmarysfoodbank.org or (602)-343-3103.

Find more information online at stmarysfoodbank.org/food-sourcing