

RETAIL CONNECTIONS

Heritage Festival and Summer Food Drive

Get ready, the Heritage Festival food drive is just around the corner! In the last half of July, your store may see an increase in customers donating. We encourage you to help customers donate by displaying our most needed items. We also have shelf talkers available if you want to bring attention to these items on your shelves, contact us for details on those.

If you have been in Edmonton a while you will have heard of the Edmonton Heritage Festival, a three day celebration of cultures from around the world. You may also know that this event is our largest food drive of the summer. We encourage Edmontonians to either bring donations to the Heritage Festival (August 2 to 4) or donate at local grocery stores. In the last few years, we have extended the food drive to the weeks around the festival as well. We hope this encourages even more people to donate. Thank you for supporting summer giving!

EDMONTON'S FOOD BANK IS A CENTRAL WAREHOUSE FOR MORE THAN 350 AGENCIES, SCHOOLS, SOUP KITCHENS, AND SHELTERS.

Upcoming Food Bank Closures:

The food bank **will not** be available to pick up on the days below:

- August 30 to September 1 - Labour Day Weekend
- October 11 to 13 - Thanksgiving Weekend
- November 11 - Remembrance Day
- December 25 - Christmas Day
- December 26 - Boxing Day
- January 1 - New Year's Day 2026

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Did You Know?

Garden season is nearing its end and we can accept any remaining packs of vegetable seeds you have.

Most seeds will last at least one more season and we can use them for our gardens or share them with other agencies next year.



For more information and resources or to **unsubscribe** from this newsletter, contact **Melissa** at 780.425.2133 ext. 239 or melissa.s@edmontonsfoodbank.com or **Susan** at 780.425.2133 ext. 236 or communications@edmontonsfoodbank.com

edmontonsfoodbank.com
[@yegfoodbank](https://www.instagram.com/yegfoodbank)



Best Before Date (BBD) Guidelines

Category	Items	Donate By*
 Produce	Perishable fresh fruit and vegetables	Assess for spoilage, freshness, blemishes, fruit flies; no visible decay, mold, or bio-degrading smell
	Shelf stable canned fruits and vegetables, pickles, sauces, or pastes	6 months past BBD
	Vendor packaged cut fruit and vegetables, salads, tofu, meat alternatives	On or before BBD
	Store made fruit and vegetable platters	On or before BBD
 Dairy & Eggs	Perishable milk and dairy alternatives, butter, yogurt, cheese, eggs, ice cream, sour cream	On or before BBD
	Shelf stable evaporated, powdered, or milk alternatives	On or before BBD
	Shelf stable baby formula	1 month prior to expiry date
 Protein	Raw meat and fish	Before BBD or freeze on BBD and donate frozen
	Cooked luncheon meats	On or before BBD
	Shelf stable canned meat, fish and beans; nuts, nut butters, peanut butter, seeds	6 months past BBD
 Bread/Grain	Perishable bread, buns, bagels, pitas, tortillas, flat bread, naan	Assess for spoilage, evidence of rodents; no visible decay, mold, or bio-degrading smell
	Dry, shelf stable cereal, crackers, flour, oats, pasta, rice, quinoa, meals or sides, energy bars	6 months past BBD
	Meal replacement or supplement bars	1 month prior to expiry date
 Baked Goods/ Snacks/Dessert	Perishable or instore made baked goods (ex. cakes, cookies, pies, danishes)	Before BBD or freeze on BBD and donate frozen
	Vendor packaged shelf stable cookies, chips, popcorn, bagged snacks, snack cakes, granola and energy bars	6 months past BBD
 Prepared Foods	Perishable single or mixed food that is pre-cooked or ready-to-eat; deli salads, pizza, sandwiches, prepared meals and sides not held hot	Immediately or freeze on BBD and donate frozen
	Perishable pasta, vendor packaged soups, dips, hummus, deli meat, sauces	On or before BBD or freeze on BBD and donate frozen
	Frozen dinners and microwavable meals	3 months past BBD
	Shelf stable canned soups, stews, and meals	6 months past BBD
	Shelf stable baby food	1 month prior to expiry date
 Condiments	Frozen sauces, gravies	3 months past BBD
	Shelf stable mustard, relish, ketchup, jam, margarine, mayonnaise, oil, salad dressing, vinegars, spices, sauces, toppings	6 months past BBD
 Beverages	Juice, water, coconut water, coffee, tea, sport or energy drinks, drink crystals	30 days past BBD
	Supplemental beverages (ex. Ensure)	1 month prior to expiry date
Items that cannot be donated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Products that have been subject to product recall • Any items from the sushi department • Unpasteurized juices from a juice bar, infused waters or food sold buffet style • Food previously served to customers or returned to the store by customer • Food product where the label is missing • Foods that are held hot instore for sale in full or self-serve • Cans that are sharply dented, lacking labels, dented at the seal, and/or rusted or bloated. • Foods with an off odour or show signs of spoilage (slimy layer, mold or unusual colour) • Distressed foods that include foods that have been exposed to a power outage, fire, flood, excessive heat, smoke, radiation, and pest infestation • Pharmaceutical including over the counter drugs, natural health products, and medical devices • Items placed in the customer donation bin at the front of the store are NOT counted as rescued food. 	