

Food Safety



- When the food you eat makes you sick, due to contamination with bacteria, you have a foodborne illness. You cannot see the bacteria that cause foodborne illnesses.
- To help prevent foodborne illnesses follow the 4 steps to food safety: CLEAN, SEPARATE, COOK & CHILL.
- Keep the kitchen CLEAN. Wash your hands with soap and water before preparing, cooking or eating food to prevent the spread of bacteria from your hands.
- Keep foods SEPARATE to avoid cross-contamination where bacteria are spread from one food product to another.
- COOK your meat, poultry, fish and seafood to a safe temperature.
- CHILL (refrigerate) or freeze perishable food and leftovers within 2 hours.
- Keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold.
- Keep your freezer at 0 degrees Fahrenheit and your refrigerator at or below 40 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Thaw foods in the refrigerator, not on the counter.

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Storage Chart for Leftover Foods Maximum refrigerator storage for maintaining the quality of foods

Cooked stuffing 3-4 days Gravy 1-2 days
Cooked meat, poultry, fish
Canned ham, opened and luncheon meats, opened
Bacon, corned beef, frankfurters (hot dogs) and whole ham (in original wrap)
Leftover casseroles, main dishes, and soups
Canned vegetables, opened
Canned fruit, opened
Fluid milk: whole, skim, 2%, or reconstituted dry milk
Cheese: cottage
Pudding (covered)
Margarine (in original wrap)
Butter (in original wrap)1-2 weeks



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