

# Donation Guidelines & Quick Reference



## The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act:

**What does it do?** The Good Samaritan Act encourages the donation of food and grocery products to 501(c)3 non-profit organizations for distribution to needy individuals. The law protects all food and grocery donors who donate apparently wholesome food in good-faith from civil and criminal liability. The Emerson Act also provides uniform federal protection and replaces all state laws, including those in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and all U.S. territories and possessions. Under the national law, food donors need only seek protection under one law.

**Who does it protect?** The law protects all food and grocery donors, including individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, governmental entities, wholesalers, manufacturers, retailers, farmers, gleaners and non-profit feeding program administrators who donate food and grocery products in good faith. While exceptions are noted for gross negligence, the law states that these groups will not be subject to civil or criminal liability arising from the nature, age, packaging or condition of apparently wholesome food or an apparently fit grocery product.

### PERISHABLE

PRODUCT CATEGORY	DEADLINE FOR DONATION
<b>Frozen Meats and Foods</b> <b>Fresh Meats</b>	Frozen: 6 months past expiration Fresh: before or day of expiration
<b>Milk and Yogurt</b>	10-12 days before expiration
<b>Eggs</b>	Fresh in shell: 10-12 days before expiration substitute: 10 days before expiration
<b>Prepared salads, foods and dips</b>	10-12 days before expiration
<b>Cheese</b>	5-7 days before expiration
<b>Refrigerated juices and teas</b> <b>Processed refrigerated foods</b>	3-5 days before expiration
<b>Bread</b>	7-10 days before expiration

**Items we cannot accept:** unsealed packaging, damaged cans with spillage or rust, expired baby food, ice cream, items with no nutritional or ingredient information, prescription drugs, feeding tube formula.



**NON-PERISHABLE**

PRODUCT CATEGORY	TYPES OF ITEMS	EXAMPLES	DEADLINE FOR DONATION
<b>Dry Groceries/ Snacks</b>	Cereal Assorted Dried Groceries Assorted Nutritional Foods Snacks Assorted	Dry cereal, oatmeal, grits Rice, pasta, dried fruits/flour, sugar, coffee and boxed soups Granola bars Chips, cookies, crackers, fruit cups, candy, microwave popcorn	2 months past expiration 8 months past expiration 2 months past expiration 2 months past expiration *Chips 1 week before expiration
<b>All Canned Goods</b>	Canned Goods Canned Pull Top Products	#10 Cans, meat, vegetables, fruit, soup Ready to eat canned products	24 months past expiration 12 months past expiration
<b>Condiments/ Drinks</b>	Condiments Drinks Assorted Water	Salad dressing, cooking oil, jelly, peanut butter, mayonnaise, pickles All juices, sodas, sports drinks Regular and flavored water	9 months past expiration *white salad dressing -1 month past expiration 6 months past expiration 12 months past expiration
<b>Non-Food</b>	Household Assorted Household Cleaning Assorted House-wares Assorted School/ Office Supplies	Light bulbs, paper products, plastic reusable container, foil Cleaning product, laundry detergent, dish soap, cleaning wipes, bleach Toys, clothing items, small appliances, small electronics Pencils, pens, notebook paper, scissors	None
<b>Personal Care/ Baby Items</b>	Baby Items Personal Care Personal Care Men Personal Care Women	Diapers, wipes, clothes Bath soap, dental care, hand soap, body wash, shampoo/ conditioner, deodorant, adult diapers Male hygiene, male fragrances Female hygiene, female fragrances, cosmetics	None
<b>Pet Supplies</b>	Pet Food Assorted	Pet food, pet toys	9 Months After Code Date