



## **“Best Before” and “Use By”** dates on food packaging Understand them right to prevent **food waste** and **save money**

**‘Best before’** indicates the date until when the food retains its expected quality

> Food is still safe to consume after the indicated **“best before”** day on the condition that storage instructions are respected and packaging is not damaged, but it might begin to lose its flavor and texture.

> **“Best before”** dates appear on a wide range of refrigerated, frozen, dried (pasta, rice), tinned and other foods (vegetable oil, chocolate, etc).

> Check if the packaging is intact, and if the food looks, smells and tastes good before throwing away food past its **“best before”** date.

> Once a food with a **“best before”** date on it has been opened, follow any instructions such as **“eat within three days of opening”**, when applicable.



Find out more about reducing food waste at  
[http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/sustainability/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/sustainability/index_en.htm)



## **“Best Before” and “Use By”** dates on food packaging Understand them right to prevent **food waste** and **save money**

**“Use By”** indicates the date until when the food can be eaten safely.

> Don't use any food after expiration of the **“use by”** date.

> **“Use by”** dates appear on highly perishable food, such as fresh fish, fresh minced meat, etc.

> Follow the storage instructions such as **“keep in a refrigerator”** or **“keep at 2-4°C”**; if not the food will spoil quicker and you may risk food poisoning.

> By freezing the food at home soon after purchase, you can extend its life beyond the **“use by”** date, if it is frozen properly. But make sure you follow any instructions on the pack, such as **“freeze up to the use by date”**, **“cook from frozen”** or **“defrost thoroughly before use and use within 24 hours”**.

> Once a food with a **“use by”** date on it has been opened follow any for storage and use instructions such as **“eat within three days of opening”**, bearing in mind that food should be consumed before the expiration of the **“use by”** date.



## “Best Before”

- BG** • “Най-добър до ...”, когато в датата е посочен определен ден, • “Годен за употреба до края на ...” в останалите случаи.
- CZ** • “minimální trvanlivost do...”, obsahuje-li datum uvedení dne, • “minimální trvanlivost do konce...” v ostatních případech,
- DA** • “mindst holdbar til ...”, når datoen angiver dagen, • “mindst holdbar til og med ...” i andre tilfælde,
- DE** • “mindestens haltbar bis ...”, wenn der Tag genannt wird, • “mindestens haltbar bis Ende ...” in den anderen Fällen
- EL** • “Ανάλωση κατά προτίμηση πριν από ...”, εφόσον περιλαμβάνεται και η ακριβής ημέρα, • “Ανάλωση κατά προτίμηση πριν από το τέλος ...”, στις υπόλοιπες περιπτώσεις,
- EN** • “Best before ...” when the date includes an indication of the day, • “Best before end ...” in other cases,
- ES** • “consumir preferentemente antes del ...” cuando la fecha incluya la indicación del día, • “consumir preferentemente antes de finales de ...” en los demás casos,
- ET** • “Parim enne...”, kui tähtpäev sisaldab päeva, • muudel juhtudel “Parim enne ... lõppu”,
- FI** • “parasta ennen”, kun ajankohta ilmoitetaan päivän tarkkuudella; tai ilmaisu, • “parasta ennen... loppua”, kun ajankohta ilmoitetaan jollakin muulla tavalla.
- FR** • “à consommer de préférence avant le ...” lorsque la date comporte l’indication du jour, • “à consommer de préférence avant fin ...” dans les autres cas,
- HR** • “Najbolje upotrijebiti do...” kada datum uključuje oznaku dana, • “Najbolje upotrijebiti do kraja...” u ostalim slučajevima.
- HU** • “Minőségét megőrzi: ...”, a mennyiben a dátumban szerepel a nap megjelölése, • “Minőségét megőrzi ... végéig” más esetekben.
- IT** • “da consumarsi preferibilmente entro il...”, quando la data comporta l’indicazione del giorno, • “da consumarsi preferibilmente entro fine...”, negli altri casi,

- LT** • “Geriausias iki ...”, kai dataje nurodoma diena, • “Geriausias iki... (data)” pabaigos — kitais atvejais,
- LV** • “Ieteicams līdz ...”, ja termiņā ietilpst dienas norāde, • “Ieteicams līdz ... beigām” pārējos gadījumos,
- MT** • “Uża qabel ...” fejn id-data tinkludi indikazzjoni tal-ġurnata, • “Tajjeb qabel l-aħħar...” f’każijiet oħra,
- NL** • “Ten minste houdbaar tot ...” wanneer in de datumaanduiding de dag is vermeld, • “Ten minste houdbaar tot einde ...” in de andere gevallen,
- PL** • “Najlepiej spożyć przed ...” — gdy data zawiera oznaczenie dnia, • “Najlepiej spożyć przed końcem ...” — w innych przypadkach.
- PT** • “Consumir de preferência antes de ...”, quando a data indique o dia, • “Consumir de preferência antes do fim de ...”, nos outros casos,
- RO** • “A se consuma de preferință înainte de ...”, atunci când data conține indicarea zilei, • “A se consuma de preferință înainte de sfârșitul ...”, în celelalte cazuri,
- SE** • “Bäst före...” när datumet omfattar uppgift om dagen, • “Bäst före utgången av...” i övriga fall.
- SI** • “Uporabno najmanj do...”, kadar se datum navede z dnevom, • “Uporabno najmanj do konca...” v drugih primerih.
- SK** • “Minimálna trvanlivosť do ...”, ak sa v dátume uvádza deň, • “Minimálna trvanlivosť do konca ...” v ostatných prípadoch,

## “Use By”

- BG** “използвай преди ...” - **CZ** “spotřebujte do” - **DA** “sidste anvendelsesdato” - **DE** “zu verbrauchen bis” - **EL** “ανάλογη έως” - **EN** “use by” - **ES** “fecha de caducidad” - **ET** “kõlblik kuni” - **FI** “viimeinen käyttöajankohta” - **FR** “à consommer jusqu’au” - **HR** “upotrijebiti do” - **HU** “fogyasztható: “ - **IT** “da consumare entro” - **LT** “tinka vartoti iki” - **LV** “izlietot līdz” - **LT** “tinka vartoti iki ... (data)” - **MT** “uża sa” - **NL** “te gebruiken tot” - **PL** “należy spożyć do” - **PT** “Consumir até “ - **RO** “expiră la” - **SE** “sista förbrukningsdag” - **SI** “porabiti do” - **SK** “spotřebujte do”