

No Plate Left Behind

How to save food & help the community

FOOD DONATION GUIDELINES FOR LICENSED FOOD FACILITIES



DENVER
PUBLIC HEALTH &
ENVIRONMENT

HELP THE COMMUNITY & THE ENVIRONMENT

In the United States, as much as 40% of food produced for people to eat is wasted along the food chain. Grocery stores, restaurants, and institutions are responsible for about 40% of this waste. Donating surplus food helps local agencies serve those in need, including children and seniors.

Donating food also helps the environment. Wasted food is the most prevalent material in landfills by far, representing about 20% of the trash by weight. When food is wasted, the water, energy, fertilizer, and cropland that went into producing the food is wasted, too.

LIABILITY PROTECTION

When you donate food, you are protected by the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Act, which was passed into federal law in 1996. Organizations that donate food in good faith to a nonprofit for distribution to people in need are not subject to civil or criminal liability that arises from the condition of the food.

TAX SAVINGS

According to the Federal Tax Code, eligible businesses can deduct the lesser of either (a) twice the cost of acquiring the donated food or (b) the cost of acquiring the donated food, plus ½ of the food's expected profit margin, if it were sold at fair market value. Contact your tax professional to determine its application to your business.

KEEP FOOD SAFE

In order to ensure donated food is kept safe, donating facilities shall adhere to all applicable sections of the Denver Retail Food Establishment Rules and Regulations. Donated prepared foods and potentially hazardous foods must meet the temperature requirements as outlined below.



If food is unable to be delivered at the proper temperature, is adulterated, or compromised at any time, it must be composted or discarded.

EXAMPLES OF POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS FOODS					
CUT TOMATOES	CUT MELON	DAIRY	MEAT	SEAFOOD	CUT LEAFY GREENS

IDENTIFY FOOD YOU CAN DONATE

Licensed food establishments can donate food that has not been served including any raw, cooked, processed, or prepared edible food, ice, beverage, or ingredient used or intended for use, in whole or in part for human consumption, with the condition that the items be wholesome.† This includes packaged and prepared foods.



FOOD THAT CAN BE DONATED
HOT FOOD that was not served to a guest and kept at temperature and/or cooled properly (entrees, soups, etc.)
COLD FOOD that was not served to a guest and kept at temperature (sandwiches, yogurt parfaits, salads, etc.)
PRODUCE (strawberries, lettuce, onions, tomatoes, herbs, etc.)
BEVERAGES (juice, bottled water, lemonade, tea, etc.)
PACKAGED ITEMS (dry pasta, canned vegetables, pudding, etc.)
DAIRY PRODUCTS (sour cream, milk, yogurt, cheese, etc.)
RAW MEAT (beef, chicken, pork, etc.)

FOOD THAT CAN NOT BE DONATED
Previously served food such as from a buffet or that has been served to a guest and returned to the business
Distressed foods (that have been in a flood, fire, smoke, etc.)
Food in sharply dented or rusty cans
Food in opened or torn containers exposing the food to potential contamination

FIND AN ORGANIZATION TO TAKE YOUR FOOD

Call a hunger relief organization and let them know what you have and the quantity. The following local organizations are a good place to start:

- wedontwaste.org
- projectangelheart.org
- denverfoodrescue.org

ALL FOOD SHOULD BE LABELED:
DONATED FOOD - NOT FOR RESALE

Can't donate? COMPOST!

Make better use of all food that can not be donated by using a food-to-animal or organics composting program:

- alpinewaste.com/recycling-compost
- scrapsmilehigh.com
- brinkinc.biz

FOOD RECOVERY HEIRARCHY

- 1 PREVENTION**
Reducing the amount of food that goes unsold.
- 2 RECOVERY**
Donating surplus food to feed the hungry.
- 3 RECYCLING**
Diverting food waste from landfills through use as animal feed, composting, or anaerobic digestion.

Based on ReFED adaptation of the EPA Food Recovery Hierarchy | ReFED.com



1 IN 6

DENVER RESIDENTS EXPERIENCE FOOD INSECURITY OR HUNGER*



1 IN 5

CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPERIENCE FOOD INSECURITY OR HUNGER*

WASTING FOOD ALSO WASTES ALL THE WATER, ENERGY, AND OTHER RESOURCES USED TO PRODUCE, PROCESS, SHIP, AND STORE IT

WASTING 1 POUND OF BEEF



WASTES AS MUCH WATER AS LETTING YOUR



SHOWER RUN 6 HOURS †

*Denver Food Vision, denverspc.com/denver-food-vision † www.waterfoodprint.org ‡ www.publichealthlawcenter.org