

## **Food Donations to Little Free Pantries**

Little Free Pantries provide a location to store and distribute donated food and toiletries within a community. Below are some tips to ensure the food is safe for consumption



Source: www.littlefreepantry.org

## Donate:

- Food purchased from approved food establishments
- Non-perishable foods (do not need to be stored in the fridge)
  Consider the weather when donating canned or jarred foods. These foods may freeze in cold weather and become unsafe to eat or make a big mess.
- Foods stored in original, sealed containers with labels and in good condition

## Don't donate:

- Perishable food items
- Food without labels or in damaged packages (dented cans, bulging cans, torn packaging, cracked jars)
- Food that is contaminated by pests, chemicals or anything else
- Home-prepared foods, home- canned foods or leftovers
- Expired baby formula
- Open food or partially consumed product

## If you own a Little Free Pantry:

- Monitor your pantry often to ensure:
  - o It's clean, with no spills, pests, animal droppings or gnawed packaging.
  - There's no rotting fruits or vegetables, or unsafe food inside.
- Call your local public health inspector if you have questions, or plan to build another pantry.

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For more information, please contact your nearest Environmental Public Health office.