



Inland Oasis

West Side Food Pantry

Donation Guide

Yes:

- **Fresh produce.** We love uncut fresh produce, either from your garden or the store!
- **Gluten free and other restricted diet foods.** We appreciate receiving rice noodles, gluten free flour, and low-sugar foods!
- **Baby supplies.** Baby diapers and wipes, formula, and bath-time products are always welcome here. WIC and food stamps do not cover non-food items.
- **Food before or close to the “best by” date.** Per Idaho Food Bank standards, we can stretch the best by date for certain canned or boxed goods, but no longer than 24 months for most items.
- **Individual Packaging.** Or things that are easy to split - for example, laundry pods are great! Economy sized packaging can only serve one household, while a box of pods can be split to help many.
- **Health and Beauty Items.** Toilet paper, shampoo and conditioner, menstrual hygiene, deodorant, dental hygiene, and other “bathroom” necessities are not covered under food stamps and other assistance programs.
- **Cleaning Items.** Paper towels, counter wipes, laundry pods, and dish soap are some examples of much appreciated items.

No:

- **Unattended donations.** Due to health & safety requirements, all unattended donations will be thrown away. All donations must be given

to a Pantry volunteer during Pantry hours, unless coordinated with the Pantry Supervisor in advance.

- **Opened containers.** Any containers that are opened or have a broken safety seal must be thrown away.
- **Home baked goods.** All donations must be prepared in a commercial kitchen and have the ingredients and either an expiration or prepared date listed.
 - If you are a small business and would like to donate your delicious goods, please see our Small Business guidelines, attached.

Misc:

- **Monetary donations** are always welcome. Canned goods are fantastic, but they don't pay the rent. We also have ways of obtaining exactly what we need at a lower cost than you.
- **Most needed items** are milk, bread, canned meat, jelly, granola bars, condiments, canned beans (protein- refried, kidney, black, beans, etc. - not green beans), canned fruit, chunky soups, and dehydrated potatoes.
- **Community food drives:** If you would be interested in partnering with us for a food drive through your school or work, please let us know by sending an email to the address below.
- **One of the most important donations is your time!** The Pantry runs on volunteers and none of this would be possible without volunteers.



Inland Oasis

West Side Food Pantry

Small Business Donation Guide

Thank you for thinking of the West Side Food Pantry! We appreciate your work and dedication to our community, and we love partnering with local community members and small businesses to help fill our shelves. For the health and safety of our neighbors, there are a few requirements that every food donation must follow, as provided by the Idaho Food Bank:

- Any food item must be prepared in a commercial kitchen following Idaho food safety standards.
- Each batch of product must be labeled with its own list of ingredients.
 - We do not keep a record of ingredients lists, as we are unable to reuse that information from previous donations.
 - If there is an ingredient that itself has ingredients (for example, chocolate chips), then the “sub-ingredients” need to be included in the provided list.
 - If possible, we would prefer that varieties are kept separate to avoid allergen cross-contamination.
- All packages must be labeled with the date the item was prepared.
- All food donations must be left with a volunteer or staff member.

These labels must be provided by you as the preparer of the item.

If you have any questions, please let us know!