

# STORAGE CONTAINERS

Dry goods may be stored in several types of storage containers:

## PLASTIC

1. Plastic should be food grade plastic. Buckets should be HDPE. Bottles should be PETE or PET.
2. Opaque containers are preferable to translucent or transparent containers.
3. The containers must be air tight. Buckets should have a rubber gasket in the lid. PETE bottles should have a soft rubbery surface in the lid, not paper.
4. Containers should not be in direct contact with the floor and should be stored away from sun light.
5. Used containers may be utilized for storage if they previously stored food, no odor persists from the previous contents, and if lids still seal air tight (gaskets should be intact).
6. Plastic containers should not be stored in areas with gasoline, paint thinner, paint rags, etc., as fumes from these may penetrate the containers and contaminate the food.
7. Plastic should be used with caution in areas infested with large rodents that might chew through the containers.

## METAL

1. The lids and containers should be air tight. Side seams should have a continuous weld. Cans with "paint lip" lids are best. Containers, or lids that are not air tight should be taped with duct tape to make them air tight.
2. Containers should be stored so that air circulates under them.
3. In high humidity areas, the cans should be painted with a rust inhibiting paint.
4. Large metal garbage cans and drums are generally too large to be convenient storage containers.

## OTHER

1. Plastic bags are not effective for long term storage of dry goods. Also, they are not necessary as liners in other storage containers. Colored bags may "bleed" chemicals into the food.
2. Cardboard boxes and barrels or paper bags are not effective for long term storage because they are not air or moisture tight nor pest resistant.
3. Glass jars can be used if stored away from light, lids are tight, and jars can be kept from breaking.
4. Mylar bags are effective if an oxygen absorber is used or if they are vacuum packed. Bags should be 7 ml thick to avoid puncturing from minor abrasion and to protect from rodents.

### **CONTAINER SIZE CHART**

CONTAINER    POUNDS OF FOOD CONTAINER WILL HOLD

SIZE	GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4
1 gallon	7 lbs	5 lbs	4 lbs	3 lbs
2 gallon	15 lbs	10 lbs	8 lbs	6 lbs
4 gallon	30 lbs	20 lbs	15 lbs	13 lbs
5 gallon	35 lbs	25 lbs	20 lbs	15 lbs
6.5 gallons	50 lbs	30 lbs	25 lbs	20 lbs
13 gallon	100 lbs	60 lbs	50 lbs	40 lbs
30 gallon	225 lbs	150 lbs	120 lbs	90 lbs
55 gallon	400 lbs	275 lbs	225 lbs	160 lbs

Group 1: Wheat, beans, rice, sugar, grains

Group 2: Non-instant powdered milk, flour

Group 3: Oatmeal, macaroni, spaghetti

Group 4: Instant powdered milk, potato flakes