

REDUCING FOOD WASTE IN INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL KITCHENS



Identifying Food Waste



Food waste is more than just tossing food and it extends to multiple culprits. Analyze the source of your food waste using the following categories: there's too much of it, it's spoiled or moldy, it's past or close to the expiration date, it doesn't meet recipe specs, or it's prep-waste.

Conduct a waste sort to identify which category is the largest culprit to your food waste and form a plan around reducing it.

Liability Concerns



There's actually no concern when donating food to non-profits thanks to the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act! The law protects good faith donors of food from liability should the product later cause harm to its recipient. So if you're donating leftover food, your operations are covered from any liability or legality issues when donated to a non-profit organization. Contact your local food bank to find out where to donate.

Misunderstanding Expiration Dates



Most dates on food packaging refer to the peak quality and have nothing to do with food safety. Which means packaged food is usually fine to eat after the date printed on the label.

Diverting Food Waste from the Landfill



This is where the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Food Recovery Hierarchy comes in. If food is inedible, follow the hierarchy

Be Part of the Iowa Rural Communities Food Waste Reduction Project

I am so excited to share this project with you. Funded by the Rural Utilities Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, the IWRC will be providing community-level food waste reduction assistance to your community.

Help us reduce the 40%* of food that gets wasted each year in the United States. Help us diminish the amount of food waste that gets sent to Iowa landfills each year, an amount that has increased by 62%^ since the late 1990's. And help us recover food so that no Iowan is hungry.

If you have any questions or want to learn more, please feel free to contact me at 319-273-6584 or jennifer.trent@uni.edu and visit iwrc.uni.edu/food-waste. I look forward to working with you.

Jenny Trent
Environmental Specialist
Iowa Waste Reduction Center

*Natural Resources Defense Council

^Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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