



Proper Disposal of Contaminated Food

Separate Contaminated Foods from Wholesome Food

- Record the type and pounds of food to be discarded and the method of disposal. Keep records for insurance and health inspection purposes.
- Ensure food is properly disposed of as soon as possible.

For a Small Volume of Food:

- Place discarded food in plastic trash bags. Double bag all wet-food debris.
- Denature with a cleaning product.
- Place tied bags into dumpsters or trash cans that have tight-fitting lids to keep out pests.
- Contact your waste hauler regarding trash pickup to ensure dumpsters or trash cans are emptied at the earliest opportunity.

For a Large Volume of Food:

- Contact your waste hauler regarding your need for immediate service.
- Place food in covered containers or plastic bags in a designated condemned food storage area away from food preparation and food equipment until food can be removed from your establishment. You want to prevent the food from being put back into food storage or from being served.
- Store contaminated refrigerated food in a refrigerated location separate from unaffected food.
- Label food for disposal "**NOT FOR SALE**" and restrict access to the specially designated storage areas.
- Wash and disinfect the entire refrigerated area after the contaminated food is removed.

Follow City of Houston Solid Waste Management's announcements and guidelines for disposal of disaster debris.

Helpful Hint: Use a camera to document discarded goods for insurance purposes.

Solid Waste Storage Areas

Waste collection and disposal facilities may not be functioning after a disaster.

- Place tied bags in dumpsters or trash cans with secure lids to avoid attracting rodents.
- Watch daily for spills, leakages, and pests.
- Make sure containers stay closed and clean.

Distressed Food

- Distressed foods, such as foods subjected to fire, flooding, excessive heat, smoke, radiation, or other environmental contamination **may not** be donated, sold, or otherwise used for direct consumption by the consumer.
- Distressed foods may be sold or donated to a licensed food salvage establishment if the establishment is permitted under the provisions of Chapter 432 of the Texas Health and Safety Code. To check licensee status: <https://vo.ras.dshs.state.tx.us/>

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