

Bagged “Dry” Products

Damaged bags of “dry” products such as flour and sugar are suitable for sale and distribution if the following criteria are met:

1. The damaged bags are inspected for outside contamination prior to sale.
2. The damage is limited to minor cuts, slits, and or tears. Holes are not acceptable.
3. The damage requires only a patch or “Band-Aid approach” to repair. Extensively damaged bags must be discarded.
4. The damage does not promote or enhance the possibility of contamination.



Public Health Division
Environmental Public Health Services

Guidelines for the Distribution of Damaged or Defectively Packaged Foods



Public Health Division
Environmental Public Health Services

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

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 **Capital Health**
EDMONTON AREA

Purpose of Guidelines

Many damaged containers end up in the food distribution chain and the question is frequently raised about the safety of using such products.

Canned Products

Before opening a canned food, take a second look. The wrap around labels can hide certain defects. If you have any doubts about a canned food, remove the label and check the container against these conditions.



Serious Defects

Not to be sold, distributed or consumed:

1. Cans or jars with bulged ends, with the exception of beer or carbonated beverage containers. These would include cans with bulged lids caused by severe dents.
2. Containers with visible evidence of product leakage.
3. Pull top containers with obvious damage to the lid.
4. Cans badly rusted with deep pits that are near the point of perforation.
5. Cans crushed to the point where they cannot be stacked on shelves or opened with manual can openers.

Aesthetic Defects

Safe to be sold:

1. Cans with flat rim dent on the double seam.
2. Cans with deep, sharp vertical or side rim dents on the double seam, but not severe enough to cause the end to bulge noticeably.
3. Body dents severe enough to slightly reduce the height of the can on the side where the dent occurs, but **not** severe enough to distort the can so that it cannot be stacked on a shelf.
4. Moderately rusted or fire damaged containers.

Insignificant Defects

Safe to be sold:

1. Slight or moderate dents on or near the double seam.
2. Flat rim dents on the double seam such that they do not significantly alter the contour of the container.
3. Cans with slight rust that is easily removed by buffing.