

Guidelines for Storing Formula Safely Opened Products



POWDERED FORMULAS

Powdered formulas are not sterile.



READY-TO-FEED & LIQUID CONCENTRATE

Ready-to-feed and liquid concentrate are sterile.

Storage Guidelines for OPENED Products



Follow the manufacturer's instructions on the label.



Consider sterility for populations with weak immune systems or infection risk.



FDA advises against powdered formula in emergencies, unless no other option.



If proper storage is not possible, throw away unused portion of formula.



Ready-to-Feed & Liquid Concentrate

Store in the original covered container in the refrigerator.

FRIDGE TEMP
35–40°F

Use within 24–48 hours to avoid nutrient loss (vitamin C & B vitamins) and bacteria growth.

- Discard formula left unrefrigerated for more than 1 hour after feeding begins.



Prepared Formula (from powder or liquid concentrate)

REFRIGERATE

35–40°F and use within 24–48 hours.

- Throw out formula left in the bottle for more than 1 hour after feeding begins.

Formula left unrefrigerated for over 1 hour may lose quality.



Powdered Formula (not reconstituted)

Label the container with the date opened.

- Use within 1 month; discard after that.

Store in a cool, dry area (not in the fridge) with the container covered.

After 1 month, powder may become rancid and lose Vitamin A & C.

Discard formula stored outside of recommended conditions.

- FDA advises against powdered formula in emergencies, unless no other option.



SPECIAL HANDLING: SEMI-ELEMENTAL / ELEMENTAL PRODUCTS

- Discard after 24 hours for most products.
- Healthcare facilities typically follow this guideline.
- High-risk infants may need stricter rules than standard recommendations.

Semi-elemental and elemental products are specialized nutrition formulas designed for individuals with impaired digestion or absorption. These products provide nutrients in a form that is easier for the body to process. They are typically used under medical supervision for specific health conditions such as severe food allergies, gastrointestinal disorders, or malabsorption syndromes.

FOR PARENTS For specific information on infant formula storage and preparation, see FDA guidance:

<https://www.fda.gov/food/buy-store-serve-safe-food/handling-infant-formula-safety-what-you-need-know>

Guidelines for Storing Formula Safely Unopened Products



Keep below 85°F

Ideal is 65–75°F

Above 32°F



Liquid-based formulas are more susceptible to changes in quality.



DO NOT use after the expiration date.

Avoid storing near temperature extremes

Keep below 85°F • Ideal is 65–75°F • Above 32°F

Storage Guidelines for UNOPENED Products



Keep room temperature above 32°F and below 85°F. Ideal range 65–75°F.



Temps outside these limits may affect quality.



Do not use after the expiration date.



Avoid storing near heaters, direct sunlight, or places where temp differs from room temp.



Repeated exposure to temps outside the recommended range may impact product quality.

HIGH

Temps (above 85°F)

- Prolonged exposure to high temperatures can cause nutrient loss, browning, or physical changes.
- Look for changes in consistency:
 - Color
 - Smell
 - Packaging
- **Do not use if the product looks curdled, discolored or smells unusual.**
- Not sure what it should look like? Contact an expert or the formula company.
- **Do not use the formula until you receive clear guidance.**

LOW

Temps (below 32°F)

- **Freezing formulas can cause risks:**
 - Fat separation
 - Protein changes (curdling/spoiling appearance)
 - Mineral separation or formation of insoluble nutrient complexes
- These changes may alter appearance and nutrient delivery, impacting quality.
- Freezing may also damage packaging, making plastics brittle, and compromising integrity.
- **Do not use products that were frozen or suspected of being exposed to freezing and thawing.**