

Black pepper

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Black pepper

Dried unripe peppercorns, the most-traded spice there is. Cracked keeps a year longer than pre-ground, and grinding at the table beats both.

How long it keeps

Unopened, this keeps **3 years** — which is what puts it on [the long shelf](#).

As sold	Unopened, in the cupboard	Once opened
ground, dried, commercially bottled or purchased in bulk	2 years	—
cracked, dried, commercially bottled or purchased in bulk	2–3 years	—

Counted from the day you bought it. Figures are the **USDA FSIS FoodKeeper** table's, for unopened storage at room temperature; FoodKeeper counts a month as 30 days.

The table was not pulled from USDA — fsis.usda.gov answers 403 to non-browser clients from this machine — so it came from a mirror of the data.gov dataset and its vintage is unverified. Treat a single figure as indicative, not as a use-by date.

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