

Sugar

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Sugar

Sucrose, refined to the point where no organism can get water out of it. Brown, granulated and confectioners all keep indefinitely; what they do instead is go hard, which is a texture problem and reversible.

How long it keeps

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

As sold	Unopened, in the cupboard	Once opened
brown	indefinitely	18–24 months
granulated	indefinitely	18–24 months
confectioners	indefinitely	18–24 months

Counted from the date on the package. Figures are the **USDA FSIS FoodKeeper** table's, for unopened storage at room temperature; FoodKeeper counts a month as 30 days.

FoodKeeper's own note: *Sugar never spoils, but for best quality use within 2 years of opening.*

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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