

Tea

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Tea

Dried Camellia sinensis leaf. Bags, loose and instant all keep two to three years dry — the leaf is already a preserved product, and what fades is aroma rather than safety.

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
bags	18–36 months	6–12 months
instant	2–3 years	6–12 months
loose	2 years	6–12 months

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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