

CAN SAFETY

IS IT SAFE TO USE FOOD FROM DENTED CANS?

If a can containing food has a small dent, but is otherwise in good shape, the food should be safe to eat. Discard deeply dented cans. A deep dent is one that you can lay your finger into. Deep dents often have sharp points. A sharp dent on either the top or side seam can damage the seam and allow bacteria to enter the can. Discard any can with a deep dent on any seam.*



TRUE OR FALSE?

Dented cans containing safe food are thrown away every day.

Answer: TRUE – What a waste of food!

TRUE OR FALSE?

Some cans with dents cause food to be unsafe to eat.

Answer: TRUE - However, there are simple evaluation techniques that can be used to determine if the food will be safe or unsafe.

HOW DOES CANNED FOOD BECOME UNSAFE?

When a can is dented near a seam or a junction, it makes it possible for air to enter the can.

A sharp dent can cause a pinhole in the can, which could also allow air to enter.

This air, combined with the moisture in the can, allows the growth of microorganisms.

These microorganisms cannot be killed by cooking. Consumption of this food could potentially result in botulism. Cans that are bulging or have rust that will not wipe off are also deemed unsafe.



HOW CAN I TELL IF A DENTED CAN IS SAFE?

Feel the can and visually inspect it.

SAFE CANS HAVE:

- Smooth dents
- Dents that are not on the seam
- Dents that do not compromise can junctures

DISCARD CANS WITH:

- Dent on Seam
- Dent Where Side and End Meet
- Sharp Dent
- Swelling or Bulging
- Rust That Does Not Wipe Off



* source: www.fsis.usda.gov



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