



Ministry of Industry Investment & Commerce

Jamaica's **Business** Ministry



Food Storage and Prevention of Infestation Division

Ensuring Safety and Wholesomeness

POST-HURRICANE,

FOOD STORAGE & PEST MANAGEMENT TIPS

1. When in doubt, throw it out; this includes expired foods
2. Throw out any food that:
 - That was likely bitten by rats, mice and other animals or contaminated with their urine or faeces
 - you know or suspect is contaminated with pesticides
 - is mouldy, especially mouldy peanuts, corn and grains
 - was contaminated by flood and muddy waters
 - you suspect or know is spoilt
 - smells “funny”
3. Remember – First In, First Out (FIFO) and First to Expire First Out (FEFO)
4. Discard all perishable food that has gone unrefrigerated for more than 6 hours.
5. Store food in clean, dry, cool, pest free areas
6. Ensure that water used for cooking and washing is potable
7. Do not store food on the directly on the ground.
8. Only purchase food from reputable establishments; do not purchase food from establishments that are unhygienic or whose workers do not practice proper hygiene
9. Inspect food properly before purchasing; look for infestation by “weevils”, expiry dates, signs of spoilage, contamination, off-odours and damage



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10. Throw out dented, swollen or rusty canned foods; look for pin holes and any other type of damage
11. Wash all canned foods properly before use
12. Wash hands thoroughly:
 - before preparing food
 - after using the bathroom
 - after touching or coming in contact with e.g. rats and mice, contaminated food, raw meat, dirty water, dirty surfaces, pesticides and other chemicals
13. Only purchase pesticides from reputable establishments
14. Do not store foods in same area with pesticides and other chemicals
15. Do not store food in containers previously used to store pesticides and other chemicals
16. Keep the original labels pesticides and other chemicals; if the label becomes detached from containers, re-label clearly and securely
17. Store all pesticides and other chemicals locked away from children and other unauthorized persons
18. Ensure that pesticides, include rat baits, and other chemicals are always used in a safe manner to prevent interference by and poisoning of persons and pets and also to prevent contamination of food and inhabited areas; always follow the pesticide/chemical label
19. Use gloves if handling dead rats and mice
20. Do not throw dead rats and mice in the garbage or in heaps; burn or bury them as their bodies may have disease-causing fleas
21. Keep garbage bins covered and secure and empty garbage regularly
22. Remove all refuse, debris and unwanted items as soon as possible to minimize infestation by pests such as cockroaches, flies, rats and mice; food sources must be made unavailable



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23. Place rodent guards (i.e. metal bands) around tree trunks to prevent rats and mice from climbing
24. Also place bait at entry point of doors whether inside or outside.
25. Where possible, ensure that all wires entering homes are not routes of entry for rats.
26. Pet food attract rats and mice, therefore minimize spillage or excess that is accessible to rats and mice
27. Trim vegetation regularly and trim overhanging tree branches from buildings
28. To prevent rat and mice entry, completely block all unnecessary holes/openings in buildings; mesh all other openings with 1/4 inch spacing