### Packaging

**Examples of breathable bags and containers:**
- Bags with holes (perforated, mesh)
- You can make your own by poking holes in a produce bag. Better yet, use reusable mesh produce bags!
- Containers with holes (aerated)
- Open or loosely closed produce bags
- Uncovered or loosely covered containers
- Paper bags
- Cloth bags
- Baskets

**Examples of airtight bags and containers:**
- Closed produce bags
- Containers with closed lids

### What do food date labels really mean?

Food date labels are set by manufacturers to indicate when food is at its best quality, not when food is no longer safe to eat. Except for infant formula, date labels are not required by federal regulation.

- **Sell By:** Recommends to the store when to sell the food by, so it still has a shelf life when you take it home. You can still eat food after the sell by date.
- **Best Before/Best By:** Means that the food will be at its best flavor or quality before that date. It does not mean that the food is no longer safe to eat.
- **Use By:** Means that the food may start to lose quality after that date. It does not mean that the food is no longer safe to eat. Infant formula is the only exception—it should not be used after the “Use By” date.

For resources to help you waste less food, visit seattle.gov/utilities/stopfoodwaste