



GENERAL YOSHON NEWS

Chodesh Tov!

Ban the Bugs!

Now before the season officially starts, is a good time to post advice on avoiding pantry pests. Although infestations can sometimes occur in the store, often packages of food can already contain microscopic bug eggs just waiting to hatch. They may even be present from the manufacturing plant, which can sometimes explain the sudden appearance of bugs from seemingly out of nowhere in unopened products.

Once hatched, it only takes two bugs to create a family. The exception being the dreaded tiny Psocids, which only takes one, hence their rapid proliferation.

Facts

- All bugs thrive in heat and humidity, so it is important to make sure that food is kept as cool and dry as possible. If you store extra stock in a basement, it is advisable to have a dehumidifier.
- Rough cardboard boxes may be very attractive to insects, especially Psocids (nicknamed “Booklice” after their appetite for paper). It may be beneficial to store stock out of cardboard cases so they can be monitored for insect activity.
- Most bugs generally live on and crawl on the ground. If you do store cases of food, it is imperative to keep them raised and off the floor, preferably on wire or ventilated shelves.

Prevention

We have recommended the following method for several years to help prevent pests and keep *yoshon* products bug-free. It works great for flour, oats, creamy wheat cereal, barley, nuts, whole grains, packaged snacks and even rice and beans.

1. Purchase a good supply of well-sealing large zipper bags *and* plastic bins. Even stackable plastic drawer sets work well for keeping your *yoshon* stash.
2. As soon as an item is purchased or shortly thereafter, freeze the unopened item for at least 24 hours or more. This will kill both living bugs and unhatched eggs already present in the food. *Note:* For items from stores that have intentionally stocked inventory for a long period of time on their shelves, those items may need to be frozen longer, even up to 4 days. It is far better and likely more cost effective to buy your own stock early in pre-season. That way, you will know exactly how it has been handled.
3. After the freezing period, let the item thaw to room temperature to prevent condensation.
4. Once dry and at temperature, place the item in the zipper bag, seal it so that it is airtight, and then place it in your plastic bin to store.

We hope this advice helps to eliminate any potential infestations, so you can enjoy your *yoshon* products all season long. It is still possible for stragglers to discover a stash, but generally the added protection of being in the plastic bins helps them stay hidden from hungry critters. Just some of our tips from Yoshon.com.

GENERAL YOSHON UPDATES

There is still little going on as of yet. We have had many people asking when the new season is officially starting. It is still far too early to announce any grain cutoff dates, but we will announce any news we do get.

This year will be late as was last year, with wheat flour being the first to turn *chodosh*. Most likely it won't be a problem until sometime during August, so it doesn't hurt to stock up now. It appears that oats, once the scariest of the grains due to its early cutoff dates, will be far later than they used to be. This is due to the new, more accurate reporting methods from the AKO.

Stay tuned. The season could possibly see most grain cutoff dates as late as around or after Sukkot, with perhaps flour and fresh baked items being before that time.

YOSHON PRODUCT ALERTS

July 4, 2024 – King Arthur Alert

Since at the moment, all their items are *yoshon* and people may be stocking up, it was reported that King Arthur Baking Company Panettone Bread Mix displays an unauthorized OU-D symbol and is NOT kosher-certified.

(Source: COR Detroit)

YOSHON ESTABLISHMENT ALERTS

Nothing to Report.

Kol Tuv,
The TYNI Staff

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