

# Bulk Buying Guide

This guide details the process for purchasing food and goods in bulk to minimize packaging waste. It outlines the steps needed to effectively plan, purchase, and store bulk items.

## Step 1: **Planning**

Create a list of items you use regularly that are available in bulk. Research local stores or online retailers that offer these items with minimal to zero packaging. Prioritize non-perishable items initially, such as rice, beans, pasta, and toilet paper.

## Step 2: **Supplies**

Purchase or repurpose containers for storing bulk items. These can include glass jars, cloth bags, and BPA-free plastic containers. Ensure you have a variety of sizes to accommodate different types of purchases.

## Step 3: **Inventory**

Check your current inventory to avoid over-purchasing. Determine the quantities needed based on your consumption rates. Take note of the space you have available to store bulk items to prevent clutter and spoilage.

## Step 4: **Shopping**

Bring your containers to the store to avoid packaging waste. If available, use the store's tare weighing functions to deduct the

container weight. Purchase the items on your list, sticking to the quantities you've predetermined.

## **Step 5: Storage**

Label your containers with the contents and purchase dates to track usage and ensure freshness. Store items in a cool, dry place to extend their shelf life. For perishable items, such as vegetables or fruits, plan how to store them properly or preserve them if bought in large quantities.

## **Step 6: Maintenance**

Regularly check your inventory to keep track of what you have and what is running low. Organize the storage area periodically to ensure everything is accessible and to prevent wasted items hiding in the back.

# **General Notes**

## **Hygiene**

Always maintain cleanliness and hygiene by washing containers between uses, especially when switching contents.

## **Community**

Consider joining or forming a bulk buying group or co-op in your community. This can help save money and reduce waste through shared purchasing and knowledge exchange.

## Recycling

For items that must be purchased with packaging, ensure you recycle or repurpose the packaging materials whenever possible.

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