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WHEN THE FREEZER STOPS!

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Foods will remain frozen for perhaps 2 days if the freezer is kept closed. A full freezer will stay cold longer than a freezer partly full. The colder the food, the longer it will remain frozen.

Covering the freezer with blankets, quilts or some other covering will help keep the food frozen or cold for a longer time. You can add insulation by putting crumpled newspaper or excelsior between the cabinet and the covering.

Move the food to a locker plant if one is in operation and space is available. Wrap the food in newspapers and blankets before moving it to or from the freezer plant.

If locker space is not available, use dry ice if available. Put heavy cardboard directly on the food packages and then put dry ice on top of the cardboard. Wear gloves to handle the dry ice.

Fruits usually ferment when they begin to spoil. A little fermentation will not make fruits dangerous to eat, but it may spoil their flavor. You can re-freeze thawed fruits if they still smell and taste good, or you can use them in cooking and baking or for jams, jellies and preserves.

Meats and poultry are not safe to eat when they begin to spoil. Examine each package carefully. If the food contains ice crystals, it may be refrozen safely, even though the quality may suffer. It may be wiser to eat meats and poultry that are completely thawed rather than refreezing them. However, be sure to cook the meat thoroughly. If the odor of thawed meats and poultry is questionable, discard the food.

Vegetables, shellfish and cooked foods should not be refrozen if they have thawed completely. These foods should be refrozen only if ice crystals are present. Do not rely on odor of these foods to determine if they have spoiled. Bacteria multiply rapidly in vegetables, shellfish and cooked foods, even at 50 degrees F. If the condition of these foods is questionable, get rid of them.

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