

# How To PACK YOUR COOLER

FUN IN THE SUN

These hacks and how-tos will help you pack your cooler like a pro and keep foods cold so you can enjoy a meal anywhere.



## PREP BEFORE YOU PACK

### Chill everything first

Refrigerate food and drinks well before you pack so foods keep a safe temperature for longer in your cooler.

The outside of your cooler can absorb heat, so store in a cool, dark place like your garage. Be sure the inside is clean and dry before using.

### Store your cooler in a cool, dark place

### Save space with less packaging

Bulky packaging takes up space. Use resealable bags instead and only take what you need. Pack small condiment jars or packets instead of full-size bottles.

## HOW TO PACK YOUR COOLER

Check everything else off your list first and load the car, leaving some open space to fit the cooler. This way food, drinks, and ice stay in the fridge and freezer as long as possible.

### Pack your cooler right before you leave

### Separate your cooler into three layers

**BOTTOM:** Canned sodas, water bottles, and raw meat. Prevent damage to other items by keeping heavy items on the bottom.

**MIDDLE:** Lunch meat and cheese, deli salads. Stack these flat in resealable bags to save space.

**TOP:** Precut veggies and fruit, bagged salad mixes.

A full cooler maintains the cold by keeping warm air out. Just be sure it can still close.

### Pack it full, but not too full

### Where do ice and ice packs go?



Place ice packs on top, after you've packed the cooler. The cold air from the packs will sink, keeping food cold. If using loose ice, add a single layer above and below the middle section, filling in any gaps.



### Ice pack hack

Soak clean sponges in ice water, place in resealable sandwich bags, and freeze. These are lighter than traditional ice packs and can be used for cleanup once thawed.



## KEEP COLD FOODS COLD

Park your cooler in the shade—under your beach umbrella or the picnic table—so the sun won't speed any melting.

### Find a shady spot

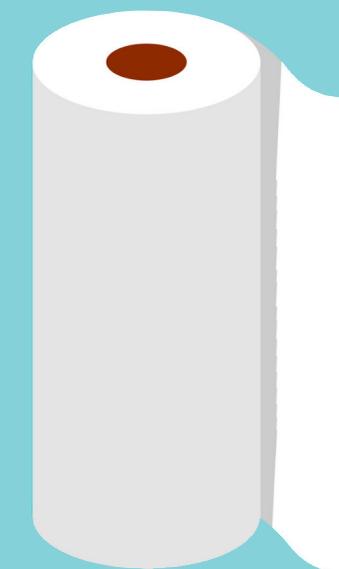
### Open your cooler as little as possible

Take out everything you need and put everything back in one go so the cooler stays closed. If you go through lots of drinks, consider packing them in a separate cooler.

Try to stick to the top, middle, and bottom layer system throughout the day so you can quickly find what you need.

### Keep your cooler organized

## HOW TO CLEAN YOUR COOLER



### Wipe down and dry

After emptying your cooler, wipe it down inside and out with disinfectant spray, then leave open to air-dry completely before storing. This will prevent any lingering smells or mildew.

### Water bottle hack

If you plan to be out all day, freeze a few water bottles and add to the bottom of your cooler. They'll serve as ice packs first, then thaw into ice-cold drinks later on. For shorter picnics, skip freezing as the water won't have enough time to thaw.

