

July 2023 WIC Quarterly Update for Vendors

Accepting new store applications again beginning September 1, 2023

Oregon WIC will resume accepting applications for new stores starting September 1, 2023. This ends the temporary pause on authorizing new stores while WIC vendor team staff were focused on development of our new data system.

As system development and testing continues, we may need to pause new store authorizations again at some point in the future. We will notify stores if this needs to happen again.

WIC refund, return and exchange policy

WIC made temporary exceptions to our return and exchange policy during the Abbott formula recall. The exceptions are no longer in place. Here is a reminder about WIC's rules regarding refunds, returns and exchanges.

For food or formula bought with WIC:

- Do not provide a cash refund, in-store credit or gift card.
- WIC benefits cannot be returned to the WIC card at the store after the transaction is complete.
- Damaged or spoiled foods and formula may be exchanged only for the same item.
- Recalled formulas may be returned or exchanged. Make sure to check affected lot numbers and follow manufacturer guidance and any additional instructions from WIC.
- Open and unopen cans of formula that are not tolerated by the baby must be returned to the WIC clinic. WIC staff will issue a different kind of formula to buy at the store.


When in doubt, follow your store's return policy and remember to treat WIC shoppers the same as other shoppers. Please train all cashiers, store managers and customer service staff on how to handle WIC returns and recalls.

All WIC-eligible fruit and vegetables must be added to the Approved Products List (APL) or mapped to a PLU

WIC-authorized stores are responsible for keeping the APL updated on all registers or WIC terminals to allow WIC shoppers to buy all authorized foods. Failure to do this is a violation of your store's WIC Vendor Agreement.

Packaged and seasonal produce often have UPCs. New produce UPCs need to be mapped to a produce PLU (packaged blueberries to standard blueberry PLU) or submitted to our office to be added to the APL. If your corporate office is responsible for produce mapping, alert them right away if any eligible produce items do not ring up for WIC.

Here is information from the WIC food list explaining what types of fresh, frozen and canned fruit and vegetables are allowed.

<h3>Fresh Fruit and Vegetables</h3> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole, pre-cut, shredded, or packaged • Salad and greens in a bag • Organic is OK <p><input type="checkbox"/> DON'T BUY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No salad bar items, deli items, or party trays • No added dressing or dip • No added nuts, dried fruit, croutons • No herbs or spices (like cilantro or parsley) • No plants 	<h3>Canned Fruit</h3> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruit packed in water or juice without added sugars • Any type of container, including plastic multi-packs • Natural or unsweetened applesauce OK • Organic is OK  <p><input type="checkbox"/> DON'T BUY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No added syrup, such as heavy, light or extra light • No artificial sweeteners or no-calorie sweeteners • No fruit cocktail or mixed fruit with cherries
<h3>Frozen Fruit and Vegetables</h3> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole, cut, or mixed • Frozen beans are OK (like lima beans, edamame, and black-eyed peas) • Organic is OK  <p><input type="checkbox"/> DON'T BUY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No added sugar, fats, or oils • No added sauce or creamed vegetables • No added rice, pasta, meat, nuts, or noodles • No french fries, hash browns, potatoes O'Brien, or tater tots • No breaded or battered vegetables 	<h3>Canned Vegetables</h3> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetables without added fats or oils • Tomatos OK (like whole, strained, crushed, diced, paste or purees) • Organic is OK  <p><input type="checkbox"/> DON'T BUY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No mixtures with mature beans, such as kidney or black beans • No pickled, creamed or sauced canned vegetables • No salsa, stewed tomatoes or tomato sauces