

ABOUT LITTLE FREE PANTRIES

Little free pantries, also known as “blessing boxes” or “little food pantries,” are easily accessible, miniature food pantries. Stocked by neighbors for neighbors, little free pantries are crowd-sourced solution to addressing limited food access needs in communities.

WHAT MAKES LITTLE FOOD PANTRIES UNIQUE?

Unlike traditional brick and mortar food pantries, little food pantries:

- Do not have eligibility requirements for use or hours of operation. Anyone can access the box anytime.
- Are small and offer limited variety and quantity of food and hygiene items. They are only intended to meet basic immediate needs.
- Do not distinguish between those that give items and those that receive items, helping reduce the stigma of being in need.



WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Permission to install the pantry at a safe, accessible, and well-utilized location.
- Materials and tools to build the pantry.
- Skilled community members, volunteers, or others who can help build and install the pantry.
- Committed group of volunteers to regularly stock and monitor the box.

LSU AGCENTER SUPPORT

While it is up to community members to stock and maintain the pantry, LSU AgCenter agents may be able to offer help planning, installing, and promoting little free pantries.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
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www.lsuagcenter.com/healthycommunities

The LSU AgCenter and LSU provide equal opportunities in programs and employment.
Visit our website: www.LSUAgCenter.com.



Little Free Pantry Suggested Donations

Many of our neighbors do not have reliable access to safe, nutritious food. To help promote health and safety in our community, please consider donating the items listed below.

Non-perishable Foods

- Low sodium canned vegetables
- Canned fruit or fruit cups in 100% juice or water
- Low sodium canned beans or dried beans
- Whole grain rice, whole wheat pasta and bread, oats, grits
- Low sodium canned soup & pasta sauce
- Low sodium canned/pouched tuna, salmon, sardines, chicken
- Nuts, plain dried fruit*
- Cereal, popcorn, granola bars, whole wheat crackers, baked chips, trail mix
- Peanut butter, jelly, honey*
- Baking ingredients (flour, sugar, oil, baking soda, baking powder)
- “Just add water” baking mixes (muffins, pancakes, corn bread, biscuits)
- Spices, low sodium seasoning mixes, sauces, and dressings

***Caution: wildlife might find this item appealing.**

Beverages

- 100% fruit and vegetable juices
- Plain coffee, unsweetened tea
- Non-fat powdered or shelf-stable milk
- Water

Hygiene/Home

- Toothbrush, toothpaste, floss
- Shampoo, conditioner, body wash
- Hand soap, laundry soap, dish soap
- Toilet paper, tissues, wet wipes
- Deodorant, lip balm, lotion, sunscreen
- Bandages, mini first aid kits
- Feminine hygiene products
- Plastic eating utensils (wrapped), cooking utensils (can opener, spatula, etc.)
- Garbage bags, plastic wrap, aluminum foil, napkins, paper towels

Baby Needs

- Baby food (all stages)
- Diapers
- Toddler snacks (crackers, puffs)
- Formula
- Baby shampoo, lotion, oil

Please Do Not Leave

- Anything sharp (razors, knives, etc.)
- Mouthwash, hand sanitizer
- Open/used items
- Rusted, dented, expired, damaged, and otherwise unsafe items
- Homemade foods
- Medications