

A Quick Guide to Holiday Candy Leftovers and General Candy Storage

To help to reduce your inventory of leftover holiday candy we are offering a few simple guidelines you should follow.

Is it foiled chocolates?

Foiled items have about a twelve to sixteen month shelf life, provided they are stored in optimal conditions – 65 degrees Fahrenheit and 40% to 50% relative humidity. Keep the foiled items in plastic food storage bags that seal well, then put it in another bag and seal it well. Many of your foiled holiday items will be fine the next time around, but don't plan on holding them for two-years! After two years they probably will be hard, dry, and will usually be bloomed. Always test any old stock before selling it in your store. If you find any out of temper chocolate you could unwrap them and use these in your Hilliard tempering melter for dipping.

Is it solid chocolate?

You can treat solid chocolate the same as foiled chocolates – it has an excellent shelf life, BUT, if you are concerned about package changes between one year and the next you can use it in your Hilliard for dipping. White chocolate yellows as it ages, and melting it down after it has yellowed will just give you melted yellowish chocolate. You could use up to 4oz of compromised white chocolate as scrap when making any Chocolate flavor fudge.

Does it have fudge in it?

If it is a fudge-based product (Cream Eggs for Easter, for example) you can scrape off the decorations and cut them in pieces before using them as fudge scraps. The peanut butter eggs can only be used in Chocolate Peanut Butter Fudge. The center inside the eggs will only last as long as fudge and these should never be sold the following year.

Hard Candy

Most hard candy will store very well for a year, but you need to take great care with humidity fluctuations. Hard candy likes a dry environment without temperature changes, and you'll want to double seal it in plastic food storage bags to make it airtight and pest-proof. Test it before setting it back in your store.