



Why The Great Pantry Project?

We believe anything worth doing is worth doing great, and this starts with building up the communities in which our customers and their families live, work and play. We're launching The Great Pantry Project because food insecurity is impacting all sizes and types of communities across the country. Food banks are critical in addressing this issue, and while mini pantries (in general) or The Great Pantry Project (specifically) are not a solution to this larger systemic issue, increasing access to crowd-sourced mini pantries can help fill the gap.

Where's the best place to install a pantry?

An easily visible spot located in an area where people are free to come and go is key. High-traffic community areas are ideal — for example, close to a local church, community garden or library makes it simple for people to pick up things when they need it, and to donate. If you plan to locate the box in a public place, you'll need the permission of the property owner, and possibly an okay from your city. When in doubt, contact your neighborhood association or city official.

Keep in mind the following when considering a location:

- Safety first! Location should not place anyone in an unsafe place, whether in an area of high crime or high traffic.
- Determine whether neighbors will be supportive of the project. Will increased traffic to the site be viewed as nuisance or invasion of privacy? If yes to either, consider other options.
- Determine if private or public property best suits your vision. Follow appropriate channels to obtain permission and/or a permit and choose a back-up location in the event your request is denied.
- If your summers are hot, position North or East facing.
- Finally, The Great Pantry Project pantries should be accessible to the public. If in an area where people travel by car, sites should be safely accessible by car with no impact on local traffic.

What should I stock a pantry with?

A pantry should serve the needs of the community it resides in while taking into consideration the climate or time of year, but as general guidance:

- Non-perishable food items such as: hot or cold cereal in boxes, dry pasta in boxes, pasta sauce in plastic containers, dry rice and beans, canned foods and soups including proteins, peanut butter in plastic containers, jelly in plastic containers, crackers in boxes, dry macaroni and cheese in boxes, apple sauce, dried fruits and nuts, beef jerky, baby and toddler food and snacks, dry pet food.
- Non-perishable hygiene items such as: female sanitary products, diapers, hand and body soap, Band-Aids, non-aerosol sunscreen, paper towels, toilet paper, shampoo and conditioner, antibacterial gel or wipes, Neosporin, laundry detergent, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste, trash bags, tissues.
- Misc items such as: sidewalk chalk, pencils, pens, notebooks, hats/gloves/scarves, kitchen sponges, new towels, or small blankets.

You'll want to do some light maintenance in terms of occasionally checking the quality of donated items; bad or unwanted items may not get picked up.

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