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Best Food Storage Containers of 2024

By [Lindsay Boyers](#)



Reviewed by [Marlo Jappen Porto](#)

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The best food storage containers keep your food fresh while also making your life a little easier. They come in handy for everything from storing leftovers to meal prepping. Food storage containers are available in all shapes and sizes and come in different materials like glass, plastic, and silicone – all of which have their own sets of pros and cons.

We spoke with two experts and relied on extensive research to help you narrow down the options. Here are our top picks plus information that can help you decide which food storage containers are right for you.

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**PROS:**

- ✓ Leak-proof locking lids
- ✓ Oven-safe
- ✓ Odor- and stain-resistant

CONS:

- ✗ Heavier than plastic
- ✗ Not as easy to travel with

[Buy From Walmart](#)

Pyrex glassware has been around since 1915, and it remains a tried-and-true brand for cooking and food storage. This Freshlock Set includes 10 containers (20 pieces total including lids) that range from a 1- to 4-cup capacity. Each container has an airtight lid with locking tabs that keep it from leaking, and they can be stacked for easier storage in the refrigerator or your cabinet.

Since these containers are made of glass, they're heavier than plastic options. On the plus side, glass resists stains and food odors. These glass containers are also oven-safe (without the lid), which is a perk for those who prefer to heat leftovers in the oven instead of the microwave.

They do have plastic lids, but they don't contain any traces of bisphenol-A (meaning they're BPA-free), and everything is dishwasher-, freezer-, and microwave-safe. The lids also have a "Write + Erase" label so you can write directly on them with a washable marker to keep your stored food organized.

Pyrex covers this set with a limited two-year warranty, so if there's premature breakdown or there are manufacturer defects, you'll be covered.

Specs:

Price:	\$52
Material:	Glass
Number of Pieces:	20 pieces (10 containers with lids)

[Buy From Walmart »](#)

Best Budget

Snapware Total Solution 20-Piece Plastic Food ...

**PROS:**

- ✓ Dishwasher- and microwave-safe
- ✓ Airtight and leak-proof
- ✓ Stackable

CONS:

- ✗ Lids don't attach to each other for storage
- ✗ Some reviewers don't like the round containers

[Buy From Amazon](#)

This Snapware Set is a budget-friendly set of glass food storage containers. It's a great option for those who want to stock their kitchen with a complete set. It includes 10 total containers – a variety of small, medium, and large sizes in round, rectangle, and square shapes – that can fit 1.2 to 8.5 cups of food each.

Both the containers and lids are made of BPA-free plastic that's dishwasher-, freezer-, and microwave-safe, and the lids have locking tabs that make the containers airtight and leak-proof. Reviewers confirm that these containers don't spill and that they hold up well to regular use (and regular washing). The containers are also stackable, so you can save space in the refrigerator when you have a lot of leftovers to store.

To help with organization, each lid has a “Write + Erase” label on the lid – you can write in washable marker directly on the lid and it’ll wash off with soap and water or in the dishwasher.

Specs:

Price:	\$33
Material:	BPA-free plastic
Number of Pieces:	20 pieces (10 containers with lids)

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best for Meal Prep

Rubbermaid Brilliance Two-Compartment Foo...



PROS:

CONS:

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container

✓

Can microwave the container with the lid on

✓

Clear lids allow you to see what's inside

size

✗

More expensive per container than some others

Buy From Amazon

Rubbermaid’s Brilliance collection is a favorite of many users because it looks and acts like glass, but it’s made of lighter-weight, premium BPA-free plastic. The plastic is designed to be “crystal clear,” so you can easily see through the entire container, including the lid, to view the contents inside.

Aside from that, these containers are best for meal prep for a handful of reasons. For starters, they’re divided into two compartments, so you can keep your main protein separated from your side dish.

The lids have latches that keep them securely in place so the containers won’t spill if you need to take them with you to work or the gym. Another thing that sets these containers apart for meal prep is the built-in vents underneath the lid’s latches that let you microwave the food inside with the lid on.

These containers have a modular design so you can neatly stack them in the fridge or your lunch bag. In addition to being microwave-safe, they’re dishwasher- and freezer-safe for those who prep further in advance.

This particular set includes five 2.85-cup-capacity containers, but Rubbermaid makes an entire Brilliance line if you want to expand your collection with various sizes.

Specs:

Price:	\$35
Material:	BPA-free plastic

**Number of
Pieces:**

10 pieces (5 containers with lids)

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best for Kids

Blue Gingko Silicone Containers »



PROS:

- ✓ Lightweight
- ✓ Oven-safe
- ✓ Several colors to choose from

CONS:

- ✗ Lids don't latch
- ✗ Only three pieces come in the set

[Buy From Amazon](#)

If you're going to be using your food containers primarily for kids, silicone is the way to go. Bestselling cookbook author and meal prep expert [Lisa Bryan](#)

describes the Blue Gingko Silicone Containers as “lightweight, virtually indestructible, and great for taking your food on the go.”

These containers are made from BPA-free silicone that’s microwave- and freezer-safe. This set is also dishwasher-safe for easier cleanup. As a bonus, you can use these containers to bake or heat up food in the oven, so they serve double duty compared to plastic containers.

Some reviewers say that these containers are great for kids because they don’t get ruined in backpacks or lunch boxes, and, unlike with glass containers, there’s no risk of breaking. They also cool down quickly, so if you heat something up in the microwave, you can likely serve it right in the container.

A potential downside is that the lids don’t latch on, but Blue Gingko says they’re airtight so they should stay in place pretty well.

This particular set comes with three containers – 6.7, 10, and 20 ounces – so they’re ideal for smaller portions of food. And, when you’re not using them, they nest in each other to take up less space during storage.

Specs:

Price:	\$30
Material:	Stainless steel
Number of Pieces:	6 pieces (3 containers with lids)

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best Airtight

Zwilling Vacuum Container Set »

**PROS:**

- ✓ Easy-to-use
- ✓ Keeps food fresher for longer
- ✓ Oven-safe (without lid)

CONS:

- ✗ Requires an extra step of vacuum sealing with pump
- ✗ Vacuum-sealing pump is sold separately

[Buy From Zwilling](#)

There are several airtight options out there, but the Zwilling Vacuum Container Set takes things up a notch. Instead of standard gaskets and latching lids, these containers are designed to work with a vacuum pump that sucks all the air out of them.

The [pump](#) is sold separately (and costs about \$70), but if you want to keep your food fresher for longer, it may be worth it to you. After you put your food in the container, you simply attach the handheld pump to the container, press the button, and let it do its work.

Zwilling says this will keep food fresher five times longer than other food storage containers, and reviewers agree, saying that the shelf life of their

stored perishables has increased. Reviewers also say that, while this involves an extra step, it’s easy to use and efficient.

The vacuum pump works with other containers in Zwilling’s lineup, including resealable vacuum bags, so you only have to buy it once even if you want to build out your collection.

The containers themselves are available in borosilicate glass or BPA-free plastic, both of which are freezer-, microwave- and dishwasher-safe. The glass containers are also oven-safe. (Just make sure to release the vacuum seal before heating them up.) This particular set includes three containers: a small, a medium, and a large.

Specs:

Price:	\$55
Material:	Glass or BPA-free plastic
Number of Pieces:	6 pieces (3 containers with lids)

[Buy From Zwilling »](#)

Best Compact

Joseph Joseph Nest Lock 10-Piece Multicolour ...

**PROS:**

- ✓ Lids snap together for storage
- ✓ Color-coded
- ✓ Nesting design

CONS:

- ✗ Some say it's tough to get the lid on
- ✗ Can warp with overheating

[Buy From Amazon](#)

When not in use, a set of food storage containers can take up a decent amount of space in your cabinet, but this nesting set from Joseph Joseph streamlines organization a bit. Reviewers say they store nicely in smaller spaces, they're well made, and it's easy to find each container's corresponding lid.

The lids all snap together to create one clean stack, and they're color-coded – the latches on the lids match a colored button on the bottom of the containers. The latches on the lids also create an airtight, leak-proof seal, so you can take these with you on the go.

There are five containers in total, each of which is a different size. They're made of BPA-free plastic and are microwave- and dishwasher-safe. Joseph

Joseph does caution that overheating foods high in oil or fat or that have strong colors (like tomato sauce) can warp and stain the plastic, so you'll have to be mindful of that when heating leftovers directly in the containers.

Specs:

Price:	\$30
Material:	BPA-free plastic
Number of Pieces:	10 pieces (5 containers with lids)

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best for Freezer

Caraway Food Storage Set »



PROS:	CONS:
➤ Aesthetically pleasing	➤ Reviewers say they're

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✓ Nonstick

heavy

✓ Comes with storage organizer

✗ Expensive

Buy From Amazon

Caraway, the beloved ceramic cookware brand, launched a food storage set to complement its flagship line. These containers are made from nontoxic, ceramic-coated glass that’s available in six finishes to match its cookware. The ceramic not only looks sleek and stylish, but it also protects the glass from shattering.

This set includes five containers with lids – two small containers, two medium containers, and one large container – plus smaller containers that are designed to hold sauces and dressings.

The lids form an airtight seal, so these containers work nicely for freezer storage. They feature two container straps to further secure the lid so they won’t pop off if they get bumped around in the freezer. They’re also microwave- and oven-safe and naturally nonstick thanks to the ceramic coating.

As an added perk, the set includes a magnetic organizer that you can use to keep the set neatly stacked in your cabinet or on display on your countertop. However, reviewers do say they’re heavy, so they may not be the best choice for taking food with you on the go.

These storage containers are pricey, but if you value aesthetics and function, they may be worth the extra cost.

Specs:

Price:	\$221
Material:	Ceramic-coated glass
Number of Pieces:	10 pieces (5 containers with lids) plus four inserts

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best for Pantry Storage

OXO 10-Piece POP Container Set »



PROS:

- ✓ Airtight seal
- ✓ Can accommodate different-sized pantry items
- ✓ Dishwasher-safe

CONS:

- ✗ Can't store liquids or wet foods
- ✗ Expensive

[Buy From Amazon](#)

If you're looking for a storage container for dry foods, this set from OXO can help you keep things organized. There are 10 total containers in various sizes that can fit everything from nuts and spices to spaghetti.

All of the containers are made from BPA-free plastic and have a “pop” button on the lid. This triggers the silicone gasket inside to create an airtight seal so food stays fresher for a longer period.

Since these containers are intended for pantry storage, they’re not recommended for liquids or wet foods and can’t be heated up in the oven or microwave, but they’re dishwasher-safe for when you need a deeper clean.

OXO makes additional sets and other compatible items, so if you want more or fewer containers, you have that option. These are priced higher than some of the other options on the list, but the author of this piece, [Lindsay Boyers](#), owns them and says they’re worth the investment. She’s had them for several years and they’re good as new, minus some minor exterior scratching that doesn’t affect their function.

Specs:

Price:	\$151
Material:	BPA-free plastic
Number of Pieces:	20 pieces (10 containers with lids)

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

The Bottom Line

Experts typically recommend glass storage containers, which are nontoxic and nonporous so they don't absorb tastes or odors. But plastic has its merits, too, as it's lighter-weight and easier to travel with. When shopping for food storage containers, think about how you plan to use them to help guide your decision. If you want a glass set, the Pyrex Freshlock 20-Piece Glass Storage Set is a great versatile option. For a

similar set that's made of BPA-free plastic instead, consider the Snapware Total Solution 20-Piece Plastic Food Storage Container Set.

Things To Consider When Buying Food Storage Containers

Material: Food storage containers come in many different materials, with the most common being glass, plastic, and silicone. This can be a personal preference, but choosing glass or silicone over plastic may offer some health benefits.

According to board-certified holistic health practitioner [Erin Souza](#), bisphenol A (BPA), bisphenol S (BPS), and phthalates are the major concerns with plastic. However, even if you choose BPA-free plastic, the plastic can break down, creating microplastics that can contribute to inflammation and other health issues, she says.

Plastic containers can also become a breeding ground for bacteria, especially if they're not properly cared for. "Scratches and damages in plastic surfaces can create small pockets where bacteria can thrive, even after washing. This risk is heightened in containers used for perishable items, raising concerns about food safety and the possibility of foodborne illnesses," says Souza.

Beyond that, the material determines what you can do with the containers. For example, you can put some glass containers in the oven, but you can't do that with plastic. Plastic is lighter-weight and more portable, though, so each type can have benefits and downsides.

Lid Design: When buying food storage containers, you should pay attention to the lid as much as the container itself. Bryan, a bestselling cookbook author and meal prep expert, says the most important thing about lid design is making sure that it's 100% leakproof and airtight. If not, it sets you up for spills and major food messes in your bag if you're taking your leftovers with you.

"A press-on lid is fine for fridge and freezer storage (if the container is staying upright), but it may not always be completely leak-proof if the container is turned upside down, like in a backpack," she says.

Bryan prefers lids with silicone seals or clasps on the sides that prevent accidental spills. If you're using your containers mostly at home, glass lids with silicone seals and metal clasps will work, but these aren't ideal for travel since they're heavier and the metal clasps can pop off. BPA-free plastic lids with attached latches are better for travel since they'll stay on tight and keep the contents of the container secure.

Capacity: Capacity ultimately comes down to personal preference, depending on how large your family is and what you plan on cooking and storing, according to Bryan. "I always recommend starting with a small set of either rectangular or round nesting glass containers, and then adding individual pieces over time," she says.

Bryan adds that you can add more specialized containers to a set, like the one- and two-cup [Souper Cubes](#) silicone containers that are great for meal-prepping large batches of soups, stews, and chilis.

Portability: You might want to take your food storage containers with you on the road or to work. In that case, you'll also want to consider how portable they are.

"While I'm a big proponent of glass storage, I also understand it's not the most practical for work or school, given that it's heavy and breakable," says Bryan. "In those instances, I'd recommend silicone or BPA-free plastic storage containers like Rubbermaid Brilliance. If you're using a plastic container, again, the most important thing is that the lid has attached clasps on the side that lock the lid in place," she adds.

Size and Stackability: Food storage containers come in all shapes and sizes from round to square to rectangular. You can find small containers that are big enough for a serving of dressing to extra-large containers that can fit days' worth of soup.

When choosing containers, you want to consider how you plan to use them. For example, are you looking for containers for leftovers? If so, you'll probably want various sizes. Are you looking for meal prep containers? In that case, you might want them all to be the same size for easier portion control and storage.

You'll also want to think about whether they're stackable or not. Stackable containers can help you save space and keep your refrigerator more organized.

Ease of Cleaning: Ease of cleaning is an important consideration since washing some food storage containers can be a hassle. Whether they're plastic or glass,

many food storage containers are dishwasher-safe. If that's a priority for you, check the manufacturer's cleaning recommendations and make sure you choose a set that's advertised as dishwasher-safe.

Keep in mind that there may be additional specifications around this, like "top-rack-only." Following the manufacturer's instructions as written can ensure longevity.

How We Chose the Best Food Storage Containers

To compile this list of the best food storage containers, our writer Lindsay Boyers consulted with two experts – bestselling cookbook author and meal prep expert [Lisa Bryan](#) and board-certified holistic health practitioner [Erin Souza](#) – to get their thoughts on what features make a food storage container stand out. With their input in mind, which is that you should choose glass as often as possible, Boyers narrowed the options down through extensive research. In addition to material, she considered size, capacity, lid design, portability, and ease of cleaning. She also factored in her personal experience with various food storage containers.

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At 360 Reviews, our editors and contributing writers have years of firsthand experience researching, testing, and reviewing home goods products. [Lindsay Boyers](#), the author of this piece, is a certified nutritionist with five years of product reviewing experience, and she has written a dozen cookbooks and developed more than 1,000 original recipes. In other words, she's spent a lot of time in the kitchen using various types of cookware and storage containers. She owns a Pyrex glass container set and a set of OXO POP Containers.

FAQ

Is it better to store food in plastic or glass?



How do I know if my food storage container is BPA-free?



Are food storage containers microwave-safe?



How do I get stains out of my food storage containers?



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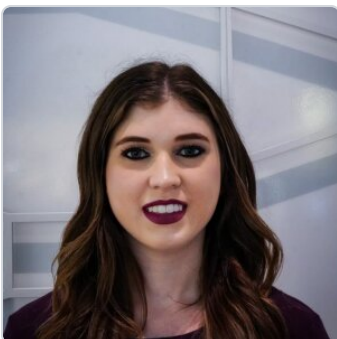
Lindsay Boyers

Contributor



Lindsay Boyers is a certified nutritionist and freelance writer and editor with extensive experience in sleep and other areas of health and wellness. She has personally tested over four dozen mattresses and many other sleep products, like pillows, sheets, and weighted blankets. Her work has been featured in Forbes, CNET, CNN Underscored, The Spruce, and Healthline, among others. She has four years of experience writing reviews

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Marlo Jappen Porto is a former editor for U.S. News 360 Reviews, focusing on home goods. Prior to joining the team, she was a researcher at NBCUniversal, where she gathered compelling and relevant archival content for live broadcasts. In addition, she has spent years working as an editor and community journalist.

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