

cereal, chips, and pasta if they are free of visible contaminants and still dry and crisp. Most often such things are found in the original packaging, which is not so much a positive sign as it is the absence of a negative one.

Raw fruits and vegetables with intact skins seem perfectly safe to me, excluding of course the obviously rotten. Many are discarded for minor imperfections that can be pared away. Leafy vegetables, grapes, cauliflower, broccoli, and similar things may be contaminated by liquids and may be impractical to wash.

Students throw food away around 10 breaks because they do not know whether it has spoiled or will spoil before they return. A typical discard is a half jar of peanut butter. In fact, non-organic peanut butter does not require refrigeration and is unlikely to spoil in any reasonable time. The student does not know that, and since it is Daddy's money, the student decides not to take a chance. Opened containers require caution and some attention to the question "Why was this discarded?" But in the case of discards from student apartments, the answer may be that the item was thrown out through carelessness, ignorance, or wastefulness. This can sometimes be deduced when the item is found with many others, including some that are obviously perfectly good.

Yogurt, cheese, and sour cream are items that are often thrown out while they are still good. Occasionally I find a cheese with a spot of mold, which of course I just pare off, and because it is obvious why such a cheese was discarded, I treat it with less suspicion than an apparently perfect cheese found in similar circumstances. Yogurt is often discarded, still sealed, only because the expiration date on the carton had passed. This is one of my

dry foods such as crackers, cookies, utterly foolproof. For myself I have few qualms about to be found in Dumpsters but are not goods are among the safest of foods if it came from a Dumpster. Canned would be willing to eat from a can, even All except the most phobic people fairly often in the Dumpsters I frequent. Canned goods, for example, turn up Dumpsters.

of perfectly good food can be found in food is discarded for a reason. Yet a lot he is constantly reminded that most happen to a Dumpster diver because turned. Nothing of the sort is likely to of milk before realizing the milk had mold on the bread or got a mouthful and eaten half of it before discovering one time or another, made a sandwich and a regular supply of groceries has, at Perhaps everyone who has a kitchen discarded?"

discarded?"

to answer the question "Why was this ing them regularly, and seeking always Dumpsters of a given area and check-

tion of the found materials, knowing the common sense to evaluate the condi-

three principles: using the senses and safely from the Dumpsters involves

dilettant from the professionals. Eating from Dumpsters is what separates the or that piece in the trash. But eating

are willing to brag that they found this not all of them of the bohemian type,

beside one. Quite a number of people, sticking out of a Dumpster or standing

sometimes find something tempting. Even respectable employed people will

becoming something of an urban art. After all, the finding of objects is

the Dumpsters.

dollars—I acquired many things from change, sometimes amounting to many

typewriter, dishes, furnishings, and male love doll, medicine, books, a

candles, bedding, toilet paper, a virgin

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