

## Infant formula recall and shortage

Updated 5/21/2022

We know this is a very scary time for parents. However, the shortage should only be short-term. The most important thing is to make sure your child continues to get the nutrients he or she needs right now. Not getting the right nutrients can affect your baby's growth and development.

This is not medical advice specific to your baby's health care needs. You should always talk to your doctor or healthcare provider about any questions or concerns you have. Our goal is to help parents understand their options if they can't find formula right now—and how each of these options may affect their child—so they can make the best decision for their situation.

Talk to your child's doctor or healthcare provider about safe options if you can't find your normal formula. It will also help if you only buy a 10-day to 2-week supply of formula, so other families can also find what they need until supplies increase.

Reach out for help if you are feeling too much stress or struggling with anxiety right now. You are not alone! There are many families in the same situation. You can find free support groups and therapists at [maternalmentalhealth.utah.gov](https://maternalmentalhealth.utah.gov).

### **Trusted people you can call if you have questions:**

- Your doctor or family doctor.
- Your baby's doctor.
- A lactation consultant at your [local WIC clinic](#).
- Registered dietitians at your [local WIC clinic](#).
- Lactation consultants and registered dietitians at the [state WIC program](#). You can call (801) 273-2991 or toll-free at 1-877-WIC-KIDS (1-877-942-5437).

## Best options for most babies, if you can't find your normal formula.

This is not medical advice specific to your baby's healthcare needs. You should always talk to your doctor or healthcare provider about any questions or concerns you have.

### If your baby is 0-5 months old

<b>Best options</b>	Breast milk <b>or</b> A different brand of formula or your same formula in a ready-to-feed or concentrate <b>or</b> Another similar formula or any standard cow's milk formula
<b>Never use</b>	Homemade formula, watered down formula, expired or recalled formula

### If your baby is 6-11 months old

<b>Best options</b>	Breast milk <b>or</b> A different brand of formula or your same formula in a ready-to-feed or concentrate <b>or</b> Another similar formula or any standard cow's milk formula
<b>Only use for a few days if you can't find other formula options</b>	Cow's milk — only for a short period of time, and should be supplemented with high iron foods.  The <a href="#">American Academy of Pediatrics</a> recommends cow's milk over goat's milk.
<b>Never use</b>	Homemade formula, watered down formula, expired or recalled formula

The North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition has a great resource to find the names of formulas that may be similar to the ones that have been recalled. **Click here for a [list of similar formulas](#) or [pictures](#) of similar formula cans.**

## What if I can't find formula to feed my baby?

There are several manufacturer hotlines you can call for help. You may have a long wait time because many people are calling.

- Gerber's [MyGerber Baby Expert](#): Talk to a certified nutrition or lactation consultant by phone, text, Facebook Messenger, web chat, or video call, to help you find a similar formula that may be easier to find.
- Abbott Consumer Hotline: 1-800-986-8540
- Abbott's urgent [product request line](#): Ask your OBGYN or your child's doctor to submit an [urgent product request](#) by [downloading and completing the form - PDF](#).
- Enfamil (Reckitt) customer service line: call 1-800 BABY-123 (222-9123)
- 2-1-1 can connect you to local food banks and other organizations which may be able to help.

## What if I can't find the formula I normally use?

The [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) has helpful information on what to do if you can't find formula and [how to choose a formula](#). The [Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine](#) also has helpful ideas based on how you feed your baby.

### **Work with your child's doctor or healthcare provider to make a plan for how to safely meet your child's nutritional needs, even if you can't find formula.**

- Your doctor will know what other brands of formula will work for your child, how to safely change to a new formula, and whether you should change back when the one you were using is available again.
- Many babies end up on a special formula or a sensitive formula for things like colic and diarrhea, but that doesn't mean your baby can't have a cow's milk-based formula. It is safer to try a cow's milk-based formula than any type of whole animal milk (like cow or goat milk), homemade formula, or watered-down formula.
- For most babies, it's safe to change brands of formula or to go from a powdered formula to a ready-to-feed or concentrate formula.
- If your baby is on a speciality formula, ask your doctor before changing to a different one.
- If your child has special medical needs and can't change to a different type of formula, your doctor may have samples of the formula you need, or may be able to order it from the company that makes it.

- Ready-to-feed formulas or concentrates may be easier to find, but can also be more expensive. You may have an easier time finding Similac Advance (standard milk based formula). This formula is a good choice for most babies.

### **Find out when stores in your area expect to get more of the formula you need.**

- Shop early in the day.
- You may need to check several stores or stores that you don't normally shop at to find your normal formula.

### **If you can afford it, buy formula online.**

- Be careful about who you buy formula from online.
- Make sure you buy formula from well-known companies and distributors, pharmacies, or online grocery stores, instead of formula that is sold on auction sites.

### **Get help from your friends and family.**

- Ask them to look for the formula you need and to tell you if they see it.
- There are also social media groups helping parents find formula or posting when stores have it in stock.

## **What if my baby needs a special formula?**

Many babies end up on a special formula or a sensitive formula for things like colic and diarrhea, but that doesn't mean your baby can't have a cow's milk-based formula. It is safer to try a cow's milk-based formula than any type of animal milk (like cow or goat milk), homemade formula, or watered-down formula.

- **Premature formula:** Ask your doctor or healthcare provider what other options will work best for your child until you can find your normal formula. Many formulas for premature babies are very hard to find right now. The safest option in most cases is changing to a standard milk-based formula, even if your baby was premature. It's important to also ask your doctor how to mix the formula correctly because there may be special mixing instructions.
- **Sensitive formula:** Similac has a Pro-line (Similac Pro-Sensitive, Similac Pro-Total Comfort, etc) and 360 Total Care line (Similac 360 Total Care Sensitive, Similac 360 Total Care Total Comfort, etc.) with sensitive options that may be available. You may want to try a ready-to-feed or concentrate option if the powder formula isn't available. Your child's doctor or healthcare provider will be able to tell you which

options are safe for your baby. Some babies may be able to have a standard milk-based formula, such as Similac Advance, which is easier to find.

- **Hypoallergenic formula:** It may be easier to get hypoallergenic formula if you change to a different brand. Some stores have their own generic or store brand of hypoallergenic formula. Work with your child's doctor or other healthcare provider to find out which option is best for your child.

## Is the formula in stores safe?

Yes. Formula in stores has passed quality inspections and is safe to feed your children.

## Is it safe to change brands of formula?

Most babies will be just fine changing to a different brand of the same type of formula they are used to. Almost all formula in the U.S. is cow milk-based formula. If you can't find your normal brand of formula, it's safe to change to another cow milk-based formula even if your baby is fussy for a few days. If your baby is on a speciality formula, talk to your child's doctor before changing or if you have any questions about changing brands.

Many babies end up on a special formula or a sensitive formula for things like colic and diarrhea, but that doesn't mean your baby can't have a cow's milk-based formula. It is safer to try a cow's milk-based formula than any type of pure animal milk (like cow or goat milk), homemade formula, or watered-down formula.

Some babies notice a difference in taste with a new formula more than others. It's best to change formulas little by little if you can, instead of changing formulas "cold turkey." If you don't have enough formula and can't change formulas slowly, your baby will be just fine. He or she may be a little fussy for a few days—which probably has more to do with the taste of a new formula than anything else.

- Start by mixing 3 parts of the formula you have with 1 part of the new formula.
- After your baby gets used to that, change to half and half, 1 part of the formula you have and 1 part of the new formula.
- After your baby gets used to that, use **more** of the new formula. Use 1 part of the formula you have and 3 parts of the new formula.
- Change little by little if you can, until your baby is drinking a full bottle of the new formula.

## How long will it take my baby to get used to a new formula?

Most babies can [change formula](#) without any major problems. It can take about 3 to 5 days for your baby to get used to a new formula. Some babies don't like the taste of different formula and are more sensitive to these changes than others. Changing formulas is a safer option than using cow or goat milk or a homemade formula.

## Should I be worried if my baby has side effects after changing formulas?

Not usually. Your baby may be more fussy or gassy than normal. You may also see changes in your baby's poop (constipation, runny poops, or pooping more than normal), or spit-up more, as his or her body adjusts. These things are normal and should only last a few days to about a week. Call your child's doctor if these changes don't go away in a week or if you are worried.

Call a doctor if it has been more than a week and your baby is still having symptoms. Symptoms that last longer than a week may mean your baby isn't doing well with the new formula. Call a doctor right away if your baby has any of these symptoms, even if it hasn't been a week:

- Crying a lot more than usual and not able to be comforted
- Blood in poop
- Not drinking enough volume
- Not sleeping well
- Really hard poops or watery diarrhea
- Spitting up a lot more than usual
- Skin rashes

## Can I use cow's milk instead of infant formula?

Only if your baby is 6 months or older, you have no other choices, and you've talked to a doctor about it.

**Formula is the safer option than any pure animal milk for babies who are younger than 6 months old.** Your baby's kidneys can't process the proteins and minerals in animal milk.

The safest option in most cases is to change to a standard milk-based formula (like Similac Advance). Babies younger than 6 months old should not be given whole or pure animal

milk, unless your doctor tells you differently. Many babies end up on a special formula or a sensitive formula for things like colic and diarrhea, but that doesn't mean your baby can't have a cow's milk-based formula. It's safer to try a milk-based formula than any type of whole animal milk (like cow or goat milk), homemade formula, or watered-down formula.

**Babies younger than 1 year old shouldn't have whole cow's milk for [many reasons](#).**

Your baby's kidneys can't process the proteins and minerals in cow's milk. This can keep your baby from getting enough water and can cause serious dehydration. If you give your baby cow's milk before he or she is 1 year old, your baby may not get enough iron to grow healthy. This can cause [anemia](#) from low levels of iron.

**If you have no other options and your baby is 6 months to 1 year of age**, your doctor may tell you to give your baby small amounts of cow's milk for a few days—no more than a week—until you can get infant formula again. This is [safer](#) than watering down or making homemade formula. You'll need to also give your baby solid foods, baby foods, or cereals that have lots of iron in them during this time.

**If your child is 1 year old or older**, he or she can have pasteurized milk, as long as he or she also eats a balanced diet of solid foods (cereals, vegetables, fruits, and meats).

- Choose whole vitamin D-fortified milk or reduced-fat 2% milk.
- Doctors recommend children 1 year and older have about 2 cups or 16 ounces of cow's milk a day. Your child should not have more than 3 cups a day. If you give your child more than 3 cups or 24 ounces of milk a day, it can cause iron deficiency.
- If you've given your child the recommended amount of milk and he or she still seems thirsty, have your child drink water rather than juice.

## **Can I use goat's milk instead of infant formula?**

No. Like cow's milk, [goat's milk doesn't give babies younger than 1 year old the right amount of nutrients they need](#) for healthy growth and development. Goat's milk is [not approved](#) for babies in the U.S. Goat's milk may also be harder to find and more expensive than other types of milks.

Your baby's kidneys can't process the proteins and minerals in goat's milk. This can keep your baby from getting enough water and can cause serious dehydration. Your baby may not get enough iron to grow if you give your baby goat's milk before he or she is 1 year old. Studies show babies younger than 1 year old who were fed goat's milk were more likely to get anemia from low levels of folate.

Children can have goat's milk after they are at least 1 year old. Talk to your child's doctor about changing from formula to goat's milk to make sure your child gets the right nutrients to grow.

## Which is safer, cow's milk or goat's milk?

Pure or whole animal milk is not recommended for children who are younger than 1 year old. **Babies younger than 6 months old should never have pure or whole animal milk.** Talk to your doctor or healthcare provider before giving animal milk to a baby who is younger than 1 year old. If your doctor tells you to give your baby animal milk, the American Academy of Pediatrics [recommends](#) cow's milk over goat's milk.

## Can I use a plant-based milk substitute?

No. Talk to your baby's doctor before using a plant-based milk substitute.

Plant-based milk substitutes like soy, hemp, or almond milk don't give babies the right amount of nutrients for healthy growth, such as protein, iron, calcium, minerals, and vitamins. Plant-based milk products contain chemical forms of nutrients. A baby's body has a hard time getting the nutrients found in plant-based milk products, especially if your baby is younger than 1 year old. Certain ingredients found in these products can affect bone growth and can also interact with each other.

## Is it okay to use homemade formula?

No. The [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) and [U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) strongly advises parents **not** to make their own formula. [Studies](#) have shown homemade formula can be dangerous.

Babies' bodies are very delicate and process nutrients differently as they grow. Until your baby reaches a certain age, his or her kidneys may not be able to process nutrients in the same way as a child even 6 months older. Infant formula is designed so it can mimic breast milk exactly. Breast milk gives your baby all of the nutrients he or she needs— in just the right amounts at the right time — to grow healthy. Infant formula is regulated by the FDA to make sure your baby gets all the nutrients he or she needs—in the right amount.



Formula has the **exact** amount of nutrients your baby needs. These are nutrients you can't make at home using a recipe. Homemade formulas have many risks and safety concerns. Using homemade formulas can harm your baby.

- Recipes for homemade formula often don't have critical nutrients your baby needs—or don't have the right amount of nutrients your baby needs to grow.
- Too much nutrients can damage your baby's kidneys.
- If you feed your baby homemade formula, it can cause serious nutritional imbalances that can be life-threatening.
- Homemade formulas are also at risk of contamination which can cause foodborne illnesses.

### **Can I give my baby water, juice, or tea?**

No. It's not safe to give babies younger than 6 months old water, juice, or tea instead of formula or breastmilk. These do not provide the nutrients your baby needs for healthy growth and can cause serious, even life-threatening, health problems.

### **Can I add extra water to my baby's formula to make it last longer?**

No. It is not safe to dilute or [water down formula](#). This can cause your baby to get too much water, not enough calories, or an imbalance in vital nutrients like salt, which can be dangerous.

Use the instructions on the package to [mix the formula](#). This is important so your baby gets the right balance of everything he or she needs. It can cause serious, even life-threatening, health problems if you mix formula any other way than how it's written on the package instructions.

### **Will adding extra iron or supplements to homemade formula, cow's milk, or goat's milk make it have the same nutrients as infant formula?**

No. This is dangerous for many reasons. Talk to your doctor or healthcare provider before giving your baby and vitamins or supplements.

The reason the FDA monitors infant formula so closely—even more closely than toddler formula—is because babies' bodies are very delicate. It can be harmful to a baby to get too many nutrients or too few nutrients. Calcium in dairy foods prevents iron absorption.

Infant formulas are specially prepared to make sure your baby receives all of the iron they need.

### **Can I use toddler formula instead of infant formula?**

No. Toddler formula has different amounts of nutrients than infant formula, and is closer to whole cow's milk. Until your baby reaches a certain age, his or her kidneys may not be able to process nutrients in the same way as a child even 6 months older. Infant formula is regulated more thoroughly by the FDA than toddler formula is, to make sure your baby gets all the nutrients he or she needs—in the right amount..

### **Can I give my baby formula made for premature babies, even if my baby wasn't premature?**

Yes. If you can't find other options, you can use it for a few weeks.

### **Can I use expired formula?**

No. Using expired formula, or formula past a "best by" date, may no longer be safe or may not have the right amount of nutrients your baby needs.

### **How can I tell if formula online or from a social media group is safe or if it's a scam?**

- Check the price. The price should be the same as what you'd pay in the store (not including shipping).
- Ask for pictures of the exact cans of formula you'll be buying. Look at the codes on the cans and check the recall website to make sure you aren't buying recalled or expired formula.
- Only buy brands of formula with names you recognize, like Gerber, Enfamil, Similac, Earth's Best, etc. It's fine to buy a generic or store brand from the store, but don't buy formula online unless you recognize the brand.
- Make sure the company and the formula you are buying is located in the United States. Formulas from outside of the U.S. don't have to meet FDA requirements, so they may not be safe.

## **I don't have enough money to buy formula. What can I do?**

You may qualify for WIC (the Utah Women, Infants and Children Program). WIC is a supplemental food program that can help pay for formula. Visit [wic.utah.gov](http://wic.utah.gov) to see if you qualify.

If you don't qualify for WIC, check local food pantries or the Utah Food Bank. Many religious organizations also have food pantries and may be able to help (like churches, synagogues, mosques, etc.).

## **Breast milk resources**

### **Can I feed my baby someone else's breast milk or share my breast milk with someone who can't find formula?**

Be careful about doing this.

For generations, wet nurses, close family members, and friends have helped breastfeed each other's babies. However, this should only be done with trusted family members and friends. It's important to know the person's health history before you feed your baby someone else's breast milk, even if the person is a friend, family member, or someone you know well. These are important conversations and you should not feel uncomfortable asking questions before you feed your baby breast milk from someone else.

- Don't buy breast milk online or from someone you don't know.
- If you trust the person who wants to share breast milk with you, or you want to share breast milk with someone else first talk to your doctor or your child's doctor, or an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) about sharing breast milk.

Some helpful resources to help you make this decision are:

- [FDA Use of Donor Human Milk](#)
- [CDC Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) on breastfeeding](#)
- [ABM Statement on Shortage of Breastmilk Substitutes](#)

## **Is it safe to buy breast milk online or from someone I don't know?**

No. Don't buy breast milk online or from someone you don't know. There's no way to know if it's safe or if it has been stored properly. Other ingredients may have been added to it that can harm your baby.

If you need donated human milk, it's best to go to a local milk bank that is accredited through the Human Milk Banking Association of North America. You can find milk banks at:

- <https://www.hmbana.org/find-a-milk-bank/>
- [Mountain West Mother's Milk Bank](#)

## **Where can I donate breast milk in Utah?**

You can donate breast milk to the [Mountain West Mother's Milk Bank](#).

## **Can I get milk from the milk bank in Utah?**

No. Right now, the donated milk at the Mountain West Mothers' Milk Bank is only used to help feed babies in hospital NICUs throughout Utah and Idaho.

## **I'm using both formula and breastfeeding, what should I do?**

You may want to only breastfeed while formula is hard to find. This is a healthy choice for your baby.

You may need help getting your milk supply back up. Talk to a doctor or a lactation provider about safe ways to increase your milk supply. You should also talk to your baby's doctor to make sure the nutritional needs of your baby are met until you are only breastfeeding again.

## **Is there a way for me to start making milk again, even if I stopped breastfeeding?**

Yes. You may be able to start to make milk again to feed your baby, even if you stopped breastfeeding. This is called relactation.

- Talk to your doctor or healthcare provider. Sometimes you have to take hormone treatment to help you start making milk again.
- Set realistic expectations. Relactation takes time.

- Work with breastfeeding support groups or a lactation consultant. WIC offers breastfeeding support and peer counseling for all families, even if you don't qualify for WIC benefits.
- Get your information from a trusted source. We recommend using information from the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), [La Leche League](#), and the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) to help you make this decision.

## **I need help with breastfeeding. Where can I go?**

- [Intermountain Healthcare breastfeeding resource list](#)
- [Intermountain Moms blog](#)
- [La Leche League Utah and Idaho](#)
- [University of Utah Health breastfeeding and lactation services](#)
- [Utah Breastfeeding Coalition](#)
- [WIC](#)

## **If you're pregnant right now**

It's normal to be worried about finding formula. Consider the formula shortage as you make decisions about feeding your baby. We strongly encourage you to consider breastfeeding your baby.

Breast milk provides your baby with the nutrients needed for healthy growth and development. There are many health benefits of breastfeeding for you and your baby. If you're worried or have questions about breastfeeding, talk to your OBGYN or doctor. You can also find a lactation consultant or breastfeeding support groups.

As tempting as it might be to buy formula before your baby is born, it's important to not do so for several reasons.

- You don't know what type of formula will work best for your baby yet.
- Buying formula now may mean it expires before you can use it or it may even get thrown away because your baby can't tolerate it.
- Stockpiling makes it harder for families to find formula needed to feed their babies.

## For people who have WIC benefits

If you are on WIC and have questions about what formulas you can get, call the WIC hotline (801) 273-2991 or toll-free at 1-877-WIC-KIDS (1-877-942-5437). WIC has nurses, dietitians, nutritionists, lactation experts and International Board Certified Lactation Consultants, and breastfeeding peer counselors who can help you.

### **What should I do with any recalled formula I bought with WIC benefits?**

Take any formula that has been recalled to the store where you bought it. They may exchange or trade it for a different formula, refund your money, or give you a gift card depending on the store policy. You can also return the recalled formula to the company that made it and get a refund. Visit the Abbott [website](#) to find out how to return any recalled formula and get a refund.

### **What if the formula I need is not allowed on WIC?**

Contact your [WIC clinic](#). They will work with the state WIC office to get the formula allowed. Right now, WIC is not requiring a prescription from your doctor to switch formulas unless you need a specialty formula. The formulas that still require a prescription include any hypoallergenic, elemental, premature, or other speciality formula that treats a specific medical condition.

You can find updates on the recall and changes to WIC benefits during the shortage at <https://wic.utah.gov/recall-info/>.

### **Can WIC pay me back for formula I bought with my own money?**

No. WIC doesn't pay individual people. WIC provides benefits that can be used to pay for formula.

### **Does WIC have any extra formula they can give me?**

No. WIC offices do not have formula to give to people, they only help pay for it.

## Background information on the recall

### Why is there a shortage of infant formula right now?

On February 17th, Abbott Nutrition [recalled](#) several infant powdered formulas after reports that 4 infants were hospitalized with a rare infection. Before they got sick, the infants had all been fed formula that was manufactured in an Abbott factory in Michigan. Two of the infants died. There were concerns the formula may have been contaminated by the harmful bacteria *Cronobacter sakazakii* or salmonella. These bacteria can live in very dry places or in dry foods, like powdered infant formula, powdered milk, herbal teas, and starches.

Abbott chose to immediately stop manufacturing at the factory until they could make sure the products they were sending out were safe. The CDC did an [investigation](#) and found the samples from the hospitalized infants weren't a strain of bacteria found in the factory.

The recall has caused infant formula shortages across the U.S. Since the recall, Abbott has been using other factories to produce their products. The company has reached an agreement with the FDA that could allow them to reopen within the next 2 weeks. It may take 6-8 weeks after Abbott starts making formula again to see it on store shelves.

### How long will the formula shortage last?

We don't know. It may last another 2-3 months.

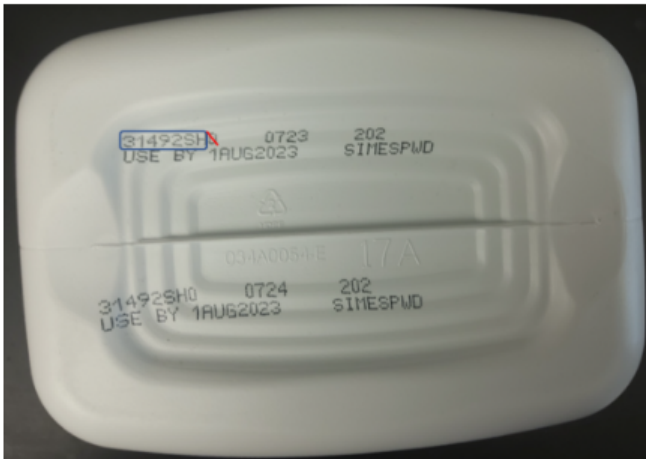
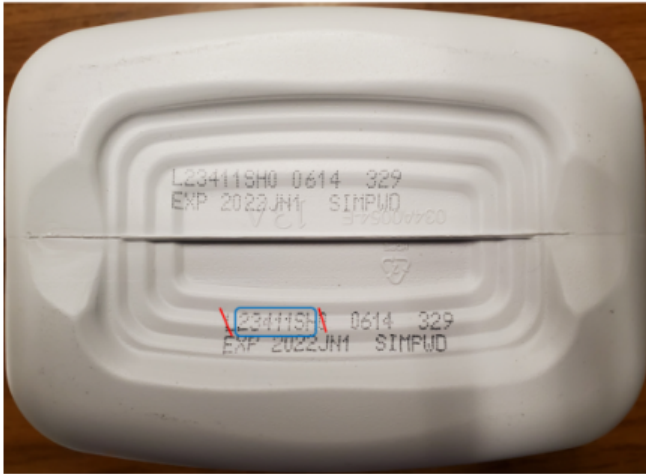
### What formula was recalled?

- Similac milk-based powdered formula including Similac Advance, Similac Sensitive, Similac Total Comfort, and Similac for Spit Up
- Similac Alimentum (hypoallergenic formula)
- EleCare (amino acid based formula)
- Similac PM 60/40 (formula for impaired renal function)
- Other special metabolic products

### How do I know if my formula was recalled?

There is a code on the package or container near the expiration date. If the code on your formula includes one of the things listed below, it means your formula has been recalled. You should not use products that have been recalled. Your formula has been recalled if:

- The first two numbers digits of the code are 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, or 37, **and**
- The code includes K8, SH, or Z2, **and**
- Your formula expired on April 1, 2022 (expiration dates may be written like 4-1-2022 or APR 2022) or after this date. Even if your formula hasn't expired yet, but the code includes the other numbers or letters listed above— it has been recalled.



You can also find out if your formula has been recalled on the [Similac Recall website](#).

### **Is it safe to use formula that has been recalled?**

We don't recommend using any products that have been recalled. Even though the CDC has not directly linked any of the recalled formula to infant illness, it's always better to be safe and not use recalled products.



## Were liquid concentrate or ready-to-feed formulas recalled?

No. Only powdered formula manufactured by Abbott was recalled. The recall did not include their liquid formula products such as ready-to-feed or concentrate options.

## What should I do with any formula that was recalled?

The CDC has not linked any of the recalled formula to infant illness. However, do not use it, just in case. It's safest to not use any recalled formula.

Take any formula that has been recalled to the store where you bought it. They may exchange or trade it for a different formula, refund your money, or give you a gift card depending on the store policy. You can also return the recalled formula to the company that made it and get a refund. Visit the Abbott [website](#) to find out how to return any recalled formula and get a refund.

## What if I already gave my baby some of the recalled formula?

It is always best to call your baby's doctor or a healthcare provider if you have questions or are concerned.

However, the CDC [didn't find a link](#) between recalled formula and infant illness. That means it **isn't likely** your child will get sick or have any effects from the recalled formula. But don't feed your baby any more of the recalled formula, even if he or she didn't get sick or you're having a hard time finding formula. It's safest to not use any recalled products.

## Where can I learn more about the infant formula recall and shortage?

- Visit the Abbott FAQ [webpage](#).
- Call Abbott directly at 1-800-986-8540.
- Check the Utah WIC website for updated information regarding the [recall and infant formula shortage](#) and changes to your WIC benefits during this time.
- [HHS Fact sheet; Helping families find formula during the infant formula shortage](#)
- Visit the CDC *Cronobacter* and Powdered Infant Formula Investigation [webpage](#).
- Visit the FDA Investigation of *Cronobacter* Infections: Powdered Infant Formula [webpage](#) or [FAQs](#).

## What is being done to help with the shortage?

### What is the federal government doing to help with the recall and formula shortages?

The FDA has changed regulations to allow companies that may not have been able to produce formula before to start producing it. Companies that were producing toddler formula can now shift to making infant formula where needed. Supplies from out of the country have also been shipped into the U.S. for distribution.

You can learn more about what the federal government is doing at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/05/18/fact-sheet-president-biden-announces-new-actions-to-address-infant-formula-shortage/>.

### What is Abbott doing to help with the recall and formula shortages?

Abbott began offering a rebate for similar formula products when Similac wasn't available. The rebate program will continue until August 31, 2022. Abbott has also increased the amount of Similac Advance 12.4 oz powder they make at their other FDA-registered facilities. This is the main formula used by those who participate in the WIC program. That means there is a lot of this type of formula available right now, which is helpful to those who may not have enough money to buy other products.

At the end of April, the FDA requested Abbott release limited amounts of metabolic nutrition formulas on a case-by-case urgent need basis, including Similac PM 60/40. Once Abbott has FDA approval to reopen, they will make EleCare, Alimentum, and metabolic formulas first, and then begin making Similac and other formulas later.

### What is Utah WIC doing to help with the recall and formula shortages?

Staff at the Utah Department of Health and Human Services WIC program, as well as local WIC programs at Utah's local health departments, have been working since February to help families find and pay for formula.

**Utah WIC programs have worked to get waivers from the U.S. Department of Food and Agriculture Food Nutrition Service to make it easier for WIC participants to get formula.** The waivers:

- Make it so parents won't have to get medical documentation during the shortage, in order to get types of formula not usually paid for by WIC.
- Allow WIC clinics to pay for more cans of formula each month for families who need them.
- Allow WIC participants to exchange recalled products for products that normally wouldn't be covered by WIC (according to store policies).
- Approved different sizes of formula cans and different types of formula than are normally allowed on WIC.
- Created options for parents that allow more choice and flexibility of infant formulas they can choose from at the grocery store.

**Utah WIC programs also:**

- Has nurses, dietitians, nutritionists, lactation experts, International Board Certified lactation consultants, and breastfeeding peer counselors who can answer questions, educate, and help Utah parents.
- Work with stores, vendors, and WIC's contract pharmacy (Red Rock), to find out how much formula stores and pharmacies have in stock; as well as gather information about shortages in the state, so we can help Utah families plan and prepare.
- Educate Utahns about the dangers of homemade infant formula, diluting formula, or giving cow's milk or goat's milk when not appropriate.
- Provide tips on how to find formula.
- Communicate with WIC families through social media, text messaging, and the WICShopper app.
- Partner with other agencies to find solutions for Utah families.

Information about the recall for WIC clients and changes to WIC benefits during the shortage can be found at <https://wic.utah.gov/recall-info/>. Providers can find information at <https://wic.utah.gov/professionals/>.