Understanding food labels

Food labels provide nutritional information which can help you make informed decisions to choose healthier food products

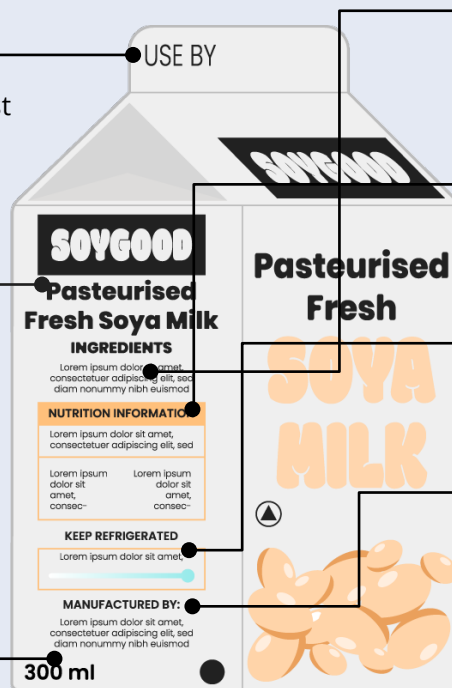

Date Marking

This is the 'Use by', 'Sell by' and 'Best Use Before' date. It gives the date by which the food should be eaten.

Product Name

Usually beside the brand name. Tells you what the food is.

Net Weight

This gives the actual weight of the food excluding the packaging. For canned foods packed in liquid, the net weight is the weight of the drained food.

Ingredient List

This shows all ingredients that make up the product. The ingredients are listed in descending order by weight.

Nutrition Information

This panel shows the nutrients found in one serving or in 100 g / 100 ml of the food.

Usage Instructions

These are instructions for storing or using the product.

Manufacturer's Details

Every label includes the name and address of the manufacturer, importer or distributor.

The ingredient list and nutrition information are particularly useful in making healthier food choices