



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

# CAN You Keep It?

## Dented Cans Food Safety Guidance



**NO**

### Critical - Class I Defect



Swollen can  
that gives  
under pressure



Can with heavy  
rusting that  
cannot be  
removed from  
surface

**NO**

### Major - Class II Defect



Dent over end  
seam\*



Dent over side  
seam



Crushed can



Two dents meet at a  
point **or** has  
pointed/sharp edges

\*Some cans do not have a bottom end seam

**YES**

### Minor - Class III Defect

- Side dent **without** sharp edges or creases
- Dent **not** involving the top, bottom, or side seam
- Dent on rim of end seam **not** affecting can integrity
- Shallow enough that finger **cannot** fit in dent



**WHEN IN  
DOUBT...  
THROW  
IT OUT!**

For more information, please visit:



FDA  
Examination  
of Canned  
Foods



KDPH Food  
Safety Branch



Bullitt County  
Health  
Department