

# Step Six: Store & Freeze for Flexibility

Storing and freezing your meals properly helps you eat well consistently, even on the busiest or most low-energy days. It protects your time, reduces waste and gives you options when life gets hectic — all while supporting your body's needs.

### To Do: Best Practices for Freezing with Intention

### **Planning & Preparation**

- **Plan ahead**: Choose 2–3 meals per week for batch cooking and freezing.
- Label everything: Write the date, meal name, and which freezer/drawer it's in.
- **Portion it out**: Store in individual servings for ease and flexibility.
- Choose the right containers: Use glass containers, BPA-free plastic, or silicone freezer bags for a hormone-safe, eco-conscious kitchen.
- **Let food cool**: Cool food fully before freezing (but no more than 2 hours at room temp).

#### **Storage Tips**

- Store food in **flat layers** to save space and speed up freezing.
- Use airtight containers or double-wrap for extra protection against freezer burn.
- Follow the **FIFO** method: *First In, First Out* eat older meals first.
- Keep a Frozen Meal Log (template below) to stay organised and reduce waste.

#### **Defrosting & Reheating**

- Thaw in the fridge overnight for safety and best texture.
- Use the microwave or stovetop to reheat gently.
- Eat thawed food within 24-48 hours.
- Never refreeze thawed food unless it has been cooked again.

# X Not To Do: Common Mistakes & Foods That Don't Freeze Well

#### **Common Mistakes to Avoid**

- Freezing food while **still hot** → leads to ice crystals and poor texture.
- Overfilling containers → food expands and can leak or break containers.
- Refreezing food that's been thawed and not cooked again.
- Relying on the freezer *only* it's a tool, not a lifestyle! Combine with fresh meals.

#### **Foods That Don't Freeze Well**

X Avoid Freezing	! Why	
Boiled eggs	Rubbery texture, watery whites	
Dairy (milk, sour cream, cream sauces)	Separates, grainy texture	
Raw leafy veg, cucumber, watermelon	Becomes mushy or slimy	
Egg-based sauces (mayo, hollandaise)	Separates when thawed	
Fried foods	Becomes soggy, loses crispness	
Soft cheeses (ricotta, cottage cheese)	Grainy, watery when thawed	
Carbonated drinks	May burst in the freezer	

→ Better alternatives: Freeze scrambled eggs, cooked grains, hearty stews, sauces, lentils, shredded meat, casseroles, cooked veg, curries, and soups.

Frozen Meal Log Template

Keep this in your kitchen or on the fridge. A total game-changer for organisation!

Date	What	Where
Example		
09/01/2025	1x red cabbage, greek pork and fried rice	Utility freezer, draw 3 from top



Disclaimer: This handout is based on current research and is intended for informational purposes only. It is not a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Consult with a qualified healthcare provider before making any significant changes to your diet or lifestyle. By following these suggestions, you acknowledge that you do so by exercising your right of choice.

P.S. Did you like this handout? Then you'll love <u>She Thrives Academy</u>, along with my <u>Emotional Eating Breakthrough Blueprint</u> and <u>Menstrual Cycle Mastery</u> courses!