

# Properly Storing Dried Grains and Legumes Using Hermetically Sealed Bags

Pic bags use no chemicals and will protect your grains because they use the right type of plastic and are thick enough to make them airtight. Pic bags consist of two inner bags fitted inside an outer woven bag. Using these airtight bags, you can safely store grains and legumes for many months, providing safe food for your family, seeds for future planting and grain to sell if you choose to.

## Using pic bags

Use pic bags with four steps inspect, fill, seal and store. First inspect your grain to make sure it is well dried by the sun and free from pests, dirt and pebbles. Separate and inspect all three layers of the pic bags for any rips, tears or holes. Note that even small holes allow for insect and mold damage.

Fill each of the two inner poly bags with air and hold the opened side to make sure no air escapes. Make sure the bags are dry and clean do not use if either of the inner poly bags are torn or wet.

To fill your bags first place a small amount of grain in the first poly bag, then insert the first poly bag into the second poly bag and insert both into the outer woven bag. Continue to fill the inside bag while shaking side to side a bit to pack the grain and get rid of any trapped air. Do not fill the bag to the top save room so that you can seal the bags.

Seal the first poly bag by twisting it until tight against the grain pressing out any air, then tying it tight with a string. Remember you need to get out as much air as possible and be

sure the bag is tied as tightly as possible this is especially true with small grains like lentils.

Seal the second poly bag the same way by twisting the top until tight against the inner poly bag then tying it tight with a string be sure the bag is tied as tightly as possible.

Seal the outer woven bag the same way as the poly bags by twisting the top of the outer woven bag until it is tight against the poly bags then tying it tight with a string be sure the bag is tied as tightly as possible.

## **Storage**

Do not store the bag in direct sunlight, keep storage area clean to avoid rodents, do not store it against a wall and it is best not to open bags during storage. If you must open your stored picks bag for any reason be sure to quickly reseal the bags following the same steps to reduce exposure to the air.

Be sure each of the three bags are tied as tightly as possible. On average the bags can last more than one season normally for three storage cycles, however it is important that the bags be completely free of any holes if you use them again, so inspect them very carefully. When you are no longer able to use pic bags for graying storage because of tears or holes you should use them for other purposes.

## **Advantages of using pic bags**

Using pics bags to store your grain keeps it safe from insects and mold growth so you can sell the grain at a higher price when there is less grain available at the market.

Pics bags allow you to store your grain without using pesticides that saves you money and is safer to eat