

SETHNESS PRODUCTS COMPANY

THE SHELF LIFE OF SETHNESS CARAMEL COLOR

The shelf life of Sethness Caramel Color is defined by its ability to function as a color additive.

The reactions that occur when caramel color is manufactured do not completely stop when the product is cooled, standardized and put in containers for shipment. Although nearly stopped, the reactions continue at a very slow rate. Over time, and at temperatures over 33°C, the liquid caramel color will continue to increase in color, the pH may continue to fall slowly and the viscosity may increase. For some caramel colors, a change may not be noticeable until after 4 or 5 years. For other caramel colors, like caramels made from sucrose, the shelf life may be much less than one year.

Even if the liquid caramel color has become very high in viscosity, but still liquid, it can be dissolved in water and thus still functional. As long as the caramel color is dispersible in aqueous solutions, it is still functional as a coloring agent.

Powdered caramel colors can be stored in a cool dry place for an unlimited amount of time. However, Sethness has set a “scheduled” expiration date of three years for most powdered caramel colors. The time limit is mostly for inventory control purposes. After the scheduled expiration date, Sethness Caramel Color is still functional as a coloring agent.