

Basic Steps to Floral Cleanliness and Higher Flower Quality

Floral shops, supermarkets, bouquet manufacturers and wholesalers who take the time and effort to work within a clean environment reap the rewards of fewer bacteria affecting the wellness of flowers for sale. Flower wellness which brings customer satisfaction and repeat flower sales to your business.

Basic Floral Hygiene 101

1. Cutting Tools

Knives, cutters, and scissors should all be washed and sterilized at least once a day, preferably more, to reduce the chances of spreading infection. Re-cutting flower stems is an important step in flower processing, as the bottom 1 inch of the stem is likely clogged with microorganisms already. It's good to open up the stem cells so water and flower food nutrients are taken up and aid in hydrating the flowers.

2. Buckets

Clean and disinfect buckets and other containers between each and every batch of flowers processed. Flower stem cells contain a sugary sap which is released when they are cut. The sugary sap can actually feed any bacterium which exists in the bucket and encourage it to multiply. Again, these bacteria clog the stems and ability for them to suck up water and nutrients. Once buckets are cleaned, make sure they stay that way by not placing clean buckets on the floor, or other non-sterile areas before stacking. Either wipe dry and stack clean buckets right away inside each other, or place them on a cleaned and disinfected cart to dry before stacking.

3. Coolers

If left unclean, flower coolers are a thriving environment for pathogens such as *Botrytis*. Sterilize cooler floors, walls, shelves, and any other surface area every 4 - 6 weeks at minimum. On a daily basis pick up any dead leaves or petals that may have fallen off any flowers to keep the environment clean.

4. Employees

Have your employees clean their own hands, as well, on a regular basis to keep from spreading bacteria to the flowers.

Acting upon the basics of floral hygiene will maximize flower quality and vase life. Quality which translates into satisfied customers and additional business. Floralife® D.C.D.® Cleaner is a general-purpose detergent to clean buckets, tools, coolers and surfaces. *Try it!*

