

Floral Best Practices



Receiving Shipments

- 🌸 Process and get flowers into cooler immediately. Side note: Always leave Roses and Hydrangeas out for an hour *before* cooling them. This reduces stress on blooms and reduces condensation on petals and inside the sleeves (Botrytis prevention).
- 🌸 Cooler set point for a regular cooler: 34-38F 80-90% RH

Sanitation

- 🌸 Spritz counters and cutters throughout the day with bleach and water solution
- 🌸 Empty trash cans frequently and sanitize regularly to avoid Botrytis spores floating around
- 🌸 Keep tools and choppers sharp. Ragged ends leak cells into the solution and bacteria explodes

Handling

- 🌸 Rough handling triggers internal production of ethylene in flowers.
- 🌸 Never drop boxes onto pallets or dump out grower boxes on processing tables = mechanical damage
- 🌸 Stack boxes on pallets in cooler to avoid soggy bottoms (Botrytis needs moisture)
- 🌸 Give breathing room in buckets
- 🌸 Place sensitive blooms in low-drip locations. Keep flowers DRY to reduce Botrytis problems.

Stock Cooler

- 🌸 Check actual temps by checking temp of a bucket of solution/water—don't rely on wall thermometers
- 🌸 Make sure green bits, old buckets, deco moss, lunches and trash cans are out of cooler (Botrytis spreads)
- 🌸 Shelf placement - provide enough space to avoid bruised flowers when buckets are pulled from middle shelves
- 🌸 Good airflow between cooler walls and products as it reduces electricity usage and improves efficiency
- 🌸 Keep foliage boxes closed up between use and at night to avoid dehydration

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Display Coolers

- 🌸 Is there good air flow around buckets?
- 🌸 Shelf placements - avoid flower damage from using buckets too tall for shelf heights
- 🌸 Maintain regular cooler check-up schedule.
 - Add important preventative steps i.e. "Coils vacuumed?"
 - Bouquets too crammed? No air flow = Botrytis problems

Display Shelves

- 🌸 Use paper towels instead of rags to clean. Rags harbor germs causing cross-contaminating of surfaces

Solutions

- 🌸 Under-dose = Waste of \$\$...impossible to achieve best results
- 🌸 The wrong solution – using whatever's at hand (e.g. vase solution for display buckets - too sugary)
- 🌸 Clean buckets between each use (bacteria is #1 flow-buster!)
- 🌸 Avoid softened water feeding into store spigots
- 🌸 Keep flowers DRY. Allow finishing sprays to *dry 100% before* flowers go into cooler
- 🌸 Mix Chrysal solutions with cold water, or better, pre-chill a day ahead to speed uptake in stems
- 🌸 Never consolidate bucket solutions when consolidating flowers.
- 🌸 Never pour old solutions into fresh
- 🌸 Consumer: Provide Chrysal flower food and reasons why to use it. Avoid the aspirin, 7-UP, Viagra story

Happy Blooming,

Kristina Miller

Floral Manager & Buyer

Phone (509) 838-3515

Email kmiller@peirone.com

Fax (509) 838-3916

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