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## Fresh flower care and handling

Coolers.. Flowers should be kept cool. Ideally, a flower cooler is 34 degrees. You should have a cooler that allows customers to see the loose flowers and arrangements that are on sale. You may also need a cooler storage intended for large quantities of flowers and greens, arrangements for delivery in the near future. In some florists designers pull flowers patterns to display cooler, some keep them separate. There is no argument or against the two ideas,as long as it takes a good rotation of flowers. The first should be the first out! Keep the coolers clean and free of plant material debris. Spores of fungi and bacteria multiply in unclean environments. They are the enemy of lasting beautiful flowers! The freshest flowers do not perform well when attacked by mold, fungus and bacteria. A mild solution of softener and water should be used to disinfect all buckets used to store cooler surfaces and flowers. Change the water to cooler buckets at least weekly. Bacteria will thrive in dirty water. Use a preservative. Use a preservative. Preservatives aren't always a bad word, but if you're bothered, try post-harvest care solutions. Post harvesting is a fashionable term that is currently used when referring to a process that happens in flowers when you've cut out the plant. Carefully follow the instructions of the wholesale florist on the use of preservatives. These solutions contain not only food (sugar), which flowers need to develop, but also antibacterial agents and, in many cases, citric acid for hydration. Special solutions contain other agents that have been proven to solve aging problems in individual flowers. There are many manufacturers of post-harvest solutions. Each has a branded product line. Most of the reasons are that they all have the same elements, but they are packaged and marketed differently. Here are some resources from manufacturers. You won't be able to buy from them directly, but every Floral Supply Wholesaler will carry one or more of these lines. If the wholesaler doesn't carry preservatives, don't spend a penny with them. Floralife:[www.floralife.com](http://www.floralife.com) Syndicate Sales:AquaPlus Products[www.syndicatesales.com](http://www.syndicatesales.com) Smithers Oasis: OasisClear Solutions[www.smithersoasis.com](http://www.smithersoasis.com) Store fruit in refrigerators. Fruit produces ethylene gas—it is a natural plant hormone that causes aging of the plant material.... As the fruit matures, it emits ethylene... that ethylene triggers the premature death of fresh flowers. This can cause curling petals in many ethylene sensitive flowers. Educate yourself about proper care and treatment. The Chain of Life network provides an up-to-date compilation of best practices in flower management from producer to consumer for the longest lifespan and value. Research is underway and recommendations change as more learn. It pays to stay informed. Inform your customers about proper care and treatment. company of florists page for florists: [www.aboutflowers.com](http://www.aboutflowers.com). It provides excellent information about flowers, how to choose, buy and keep flowers in the home. Take the time to read it all... especially in the section of flower care. When customers get great results from the flowers they buy from you, they will come back! However, to achieve maximum enjoyment and longevity from their flowers, our customers need to provide a little TLC when the flowers arrive. Fortunately, what is needed is very simple. Here are some simple steps to follow that will ensure that the flowers look their best. Follow them and the flowers will look good and last as long as possible. 1) Start with a clean vase and good quality water! One of the biggest deterrents to fresh cut flower life is bacterial. Bacteria and fungi are everywhere and are ready to enter the cut surface of the stem and multiply. Before the actual decomposition symptoms, the cells of the water-carrying tissues may be blocked by microorganisms, which inhibits water reception. The root system of the plant serves as a filter to limit impurities, microorganisms and chemicals to enter the water and inhibit the plant's ability to absorb water. When the flower is cut off from the root system of life support, it loses this vital filter. Therefore, it is important to always start with clean water to protect and preserve the flower. Always warm (100 - 110 degrees) clean water, as most flowers take warm water more efficiently than cold. The actual quality of the water used in the vase plays an important role in the life cycle of flowers; Sodium - Present in high concentrations in soft water, especially if softened with salt, toxic to roses and carnations. Fluoride - Added drinking water for many communities of dental health. While fluoride can prevent cavities in children from damaging the gerbera, gladiolus, and freesia. Minerals - In many areas, drinking water is considered hard and contains high levels of minerals. Dissolved minerals can and block the flower stems from being able to moisturate properly. 2) Use the flower food provided. While the flower is attached to the plant, it receives nourishment, allowing it to grow and develop. When you cut out the plant, you lose the source of nutrition and water. Fresh flower food has been

developed to simulate the flower's original surroundings and allow the flower to be fully developed (open). Although it is easy to find all kinds of home recipes and folklore in common household products that can be used to prolong the life of flowers, as many things, it is best to use specialists. Commercial Fresh Flower Food increases the life of cut flowers and should always be used in these formulas scientifically developed, containing carefully balanced mixtures, usually containing Sucrose (sugar); Sucrose serves as an energy source (food) to make up for the loss of working leaves and provides development and longevity of the flower. Like any other living thing, Organisms, require food energy, but too much sucrose can be a bad thing because it can force the life cycle of the flower to move faster than normal. Acidifying; Most water supply alkali and can reduce the life of the cut flowers, the acid helps to bring the water pH closer to the acidic pH of the cell sap. Slightly acidic water is taken up more easily in the stems than water, which is neutral or lye juice. The acidifying also helps the pigment and color of the flowers. Inhibits microorganisms (bacteria); It is designed to curb the growth of bacteria in the water. While the flowers require and enjoy dining on sucrose, so do bacteria. Cells of water-carrying tissues of flowers can be blocked by microorganisms, inhibit the ability of flowers to hydrate and severely reduce their longevity. Agents have to develop certain salts, dirt, and debris, which is settled rather than to develop the flower stems. Follow the instructions on the packaging and always use the recommended amount. Do not take short cuts or play on the safe side using too much flower food, both directions can be just as harmful. 3) Cut Stems & Remove Foliage Re-cut the stems at an angle removing at least inches from the stem. Always use a sharp knife or scissors instead of scissors, as this will prevent crushing of the stem and thereby the vascular system. The slanted cut opens up several stem areas for hydration and prevents the end of the stem from resting directly at the bottom of the vase, which hinders the flow of water. Leaves that will be below the waterline in the tank must be removed. The leaves in the water are deteriorating and rotting. Decaying leaves make a good medium for bacteria and fungi, which connect to the vascular system to prevent hydration and eventually cause death. DO NOT remove all leaves along the stem length, the flowers require the leaves as part of the hydration process. Always be gentle when removing the leaves, wounds or fractures of the stem surface of the open wounds, where bacteria can enter. Try a soft but impenetrable glove to remove rose thorns and foliage. 4) Last but not least Check the water level daily and fill it up as needed. If the water becomes cloudy, it should be completely replaced again. Since the water level will be low, it is necessary to re-fill vases with fresh solution made in appropriate proportions fresh flower food and water. NOTE In the case of roses, this process shall be made in the case of the products 1 and 2. Now, enjoy the flowers. Do's and Don'ts Of Fresh Flower Care Do's: Always use a clean vase and quality water. Always use the fresh flower food provided. In the beginning, always cut the flowers again. Always remove the leaves below the waterline. Always check the water daily and fill it up. Remove the flowers to make the time look less than clean, as this will keep the remaining flowers looking fresh. Do not use homemade flower food such as aspirin, soda pop, or bleach. Never remove all foliage from the stem Never place the flowers near fresh fruit or cigarette smoke, as both produce ethylene gas, which shortens the flower's lifespan. Never place flowers in direct sunlight, near a heat register or near other excessive heat sources. Never use flower food in crystal or metal containers as the acid in the flower food reacts with metal (including lead crystal) crystal)

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