

SANITATION IN THE FLORAL INDUSTRY AND BEYOND.

There are so many products for sale to help us clean, sanitize and disinfect. Never before in human history have we had so many potions, lotions, and gadgets available to keep our environment sterile. In most public places, for example grocery stores, schools, or hospitals, "sanitation stations" fully equipped with hand sanitizers and wipes all in an effort to minimize the spread of germs and consequently diseases are clearly marked and well used. As modern medicine evolves, so has our understanding that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. But are you using the right cleaning products?



The floral industry too has evolved with time, and we have learned many things the hard way. We now have a much better understanding of how proper sanitation plays one of the most important roles in increasing vase life or how the lack thereof can greatly impact it. Increased vase life has many benefits, none of the least being to save money. Ensuring your customer has an amazing experience is priceless. Happy customers are repeat customers, and that is worth a little extra elbow grease!

Having a clean operation is not only vital to the well-being of your flowers but also to you and your customers. But are you cleaning your flower operation, floral shop or floral department correctly?





Cleanliness is usually underestimated in terms of its importance concerning postharvest vase life. If we are starting with a dirty and microbe infested bucket, cooler or anything else that might come in contact with the flowers, all other attempts at postharvest care will be less effective (fresh flower food, hydration etc.). For example, if a flower is properly treated and then put into a dirty bucket, the flower may prematurely die from the microbes, regardless of the treatment. So, make sure that everything that may come in contact with the flower is cleaned with a floral industry approved disinfectant cleaner, such as Floralife® D.C.D.® or MicroBLOC®, including buckets, cutters, coolers, benches, etc.

Research has shown that buckets left dirty for four days can reduce the vase life of a rose by up to 20%.

ROSE VASE LIFE IN A CLEAN BUCKET VS. A DIRTY BUCKET

Bucket Status	Vase Life (relative days)
Clean	9
Dirty / Used 4 days old	7.5

Why use Floralife® D.C.D.® or MicroBLOC®? The products are specifically designed to kill microbes over a long period of time. If you clean your buckets today, tomorrow the buckets will still be protected. Many use a chlorine bleach to clean their buckets. Chlorine is an extremely effective biocide, but does not have any residual effect, leaving no protection past the actual application (see chart below).

RELATIVE EFFECTIVENESS OF BLEACH VS. HORTICULTURAL DETERGENT MEASURED AFTER 3 WEEKS

Bucket Treatment	Relative Bacterial Counts	Relative fungal Counts
FloraLife® D.C.D.® or MicroBLOC®	1	1
Bleach	398	38
Water	889	560

(Independent study performed at Northview Pacific Laboratories; Berkeley, CA.)

For every bacteria found in the bucket cleaned with Floralife® D.C.D.® or MicroBLOC®, there were 389 bacteria found in the bucket cleaned with bleach.

Detergent cleaners can be effective, but they only remove microorganisms from surfaces and do not disinfect. Often times, they also require an additional rinsing step.



CHECKLIST

This checklist will help you plan your daily cleaning routine and includes steps to prevent COVID-19 infections:

1. Sweep cooler and work area floors daily to rid them of leaves, petals or stems that may carry disease spores.
2. Clean and disinfect your flower buckets, tools, work station surfaces and delivery vehicles after each use. Due to the novel Coronavirus outbreak, if these tools and work areas are shared by more than one person, we recommend cleaning before every use.
3. Clean and disinfect door handles, front desks, lunchrooms, retail counter tops and elevators 3 times a day.
4. Clean and disinfect floors, bathrooms, sinks and desks daily.
5. Clean and disinfect AC vents, cooler walls and shelves weekly.
6. Use only clean and cool water for flower hydration, holding solutions and vase solutions.
7. Use ONLY commercial hydration and flower food solutions as these include the proper ingredients.
8. Mix fresh solution: start with clean, freshly made hydration and holding solutions at grower, wholesale and bouquet operations and properly mixed commercial flower foods at retail stores.
9. Be sure you and your team are sanitation fanatics! For best results there is no substitute for due diligence!



During the sanitary crisis that we are all facing, your cleaning efforts should not be exclusive to flowers. It is important to remind everyone of the importance of cleaning and disinfecting all environments properly and often, whether at home or in the workplace!

Journey to Clean

Powered by **FloraLife**

— GUIDE TO — *Floral Shop* SANITATION

6 to 10 times per day
WASH YOUR HANDS

After every use, disinfect

- FLOWER BUCKETS AND CONTAINERS
- FLORAL TOOLS
- WORK STATION SURFACES
- DELIVERY VEHICLES

3 times per day, disinfect

- DOOR HANDLES
- FRONT DESKS
- LUNCHROOM CAFETERIAS
- RETAIL COUNTERTOPS
- ELEVATOR BUTTONS

Daily, disinfect

- FLOORS
- BATHROOMS
- SINKS
- DESKS

Weekly, disinfect

- AC VENTS
- COOLER WALLS
- SHELVES

How to clean?

Mix 2 oz. of FloraLife® D.C.D.® per 1 gallon of tap water to make disinfecting solution.

Mix 2 oz. of FloraLife® MicroBLOC® per 5 gallons of tap water to make disinfectant solution.

Soak/wet surfaces with cleaner solution and let stand for 10 minutes.

Wipe away excess liquid; no need to rinse unless food or animal contact surfaces.

If food contact surface (e.g. cafeteria, lunchroom, refrigerator, pantry, kitchen counters, etc.), additionally rinse with potable water and wipe dry.

No mixing required for FloraLife® DCD® and MicroBLOC® Ready-To-Use products. Just spray and go! Same comment as above regarding food or animal contact surfaces.



The professional grade FloraLife Cleaner Products are on the EPA List N, and are effective against the Coronavirus.

D.C.D.® EPA registration
1839-95-32258. MicroBLOC® EPA
registration #10324-94-32258

FloraLife
Experts in Flower Care