

Floralife® **RESEARCH UPDATE**

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Importance of Sanitation in Care and Handling of Flowers

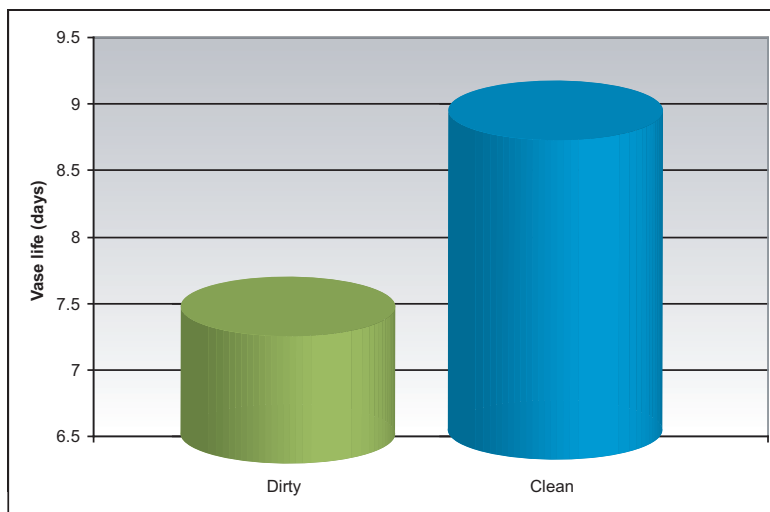
Background

Proper sanitation is an integral part of care and handling of cut flowers. Cut flower handling facilities can accumulate decaying plant materials that can act as breeding grounds for microbes (bacteria and fungi). These microbes can grow very fast in dirty buckets, and can easily get into flower stems. The small vessels that carry solution within the stem can be clogged up with growing microbes, inhibiting proper solution uptake and causing the wilting of flowers. The result is a shorter vase life for your flowers. It is critical that everything that might come in contact with flowers including buckets, cutters, coolers and benches should be clean.

Floralife® D.C.D.® is an EPA registered and approved cleaner for the horticulture industry. It has triple action: it disinfects, cleans and deodorizes. The new and improved D.C.D.® comes with a pleasant citrus fragrance too. The combined action of D.C.D.® helps to keep buckets and surfaces clean, free of microbes and odor free. The most important attribute of Floralife® D.C.D.® is its "RESIDUAL EFFECT"; in other words, its ability to keep the buckets clean days after the initial cleaning.

Research

Rose Vase Life in a Clean Bucket vs. Dirty Bucket



Relative Effectiveness of D.C.D. vs. Bleach Measured After Three Weeks

Bucket Treatment	Relative Bacterial Counts	Relative Fungal Counts
D.C.D.	1	1
Bleach	389	38
Water	889	560

Conclusion

Using dirty buckets to hold flowers can reduce vase life. The effectiveness of D.C.D.® in controlling microbes lasts longer than bleach.

For more information or to download a copy of our "Care and Handling Manual" online, visit www.floralife.com. Questions? e-mail: info@floralife.com

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