

PEAKfresh® USA

Packing Guide for Strawberries



Fresh strawberries are highly perishable. Surface injury and respiration rates are common as a result of handling. This type of injury can cause rapid deterioration and development of decay. Surface injury can be controlled by careful attention to handling from harvest to post harvest. Prompt pre-cooling of harvested fruit to temperatures of 0°C (32-33°F) will slow down the respiration rate thus slowing down the deterioration process. By maintaining a temperature control chain through the distribution process losses can be greatly reduced. Berries generally enjoy high levels of carbon dioxide 10% - 30% as the atmosphere

slows down the respiration rate and reduces the activity of decay causing organisms. Pre-cooling following harvest is very important.

Recommended Post Harvest Temperatures: 0°C (32°F) and 90-95% relative humidity.

Packaging Method:

Strawberries are packed in a variety of styles. These styles include plastic clam shells of various sizes as well as dry pint plastic baskets. It is important that whatever method is used that packaging be well ventilated for proper cooling. In most cases, PEAKfresh pallet covers are used with strawberries.

When PEAKfresh is used in conjunction with proper handling and cooling, a decrease in product deterioration and an increase in shelf life can be achieved. PEAKfresh pallet covers offer the added protection needed to protect fruits and vegetables and they keep relative humidity levels high and help maintain proper carbon dioxide levels. PEAKfresh pallet covers help reduce the moisture condensation when temperatures are not maintained properly. This reduction in moisture condensation helps to greatly reduce the decay process. PEAKfresh pallet covers can be removed for product inspection and then reinstalled to continue to protect product.

PEAKfresh pallet covers are easily installed and require little labor and no special equipment. Pallet covers can be simply opened and pulled over the product to be protected. It should be noted that pallet covers should be installed in a manner as to not cover the wood or plastic pallet. If pallets are covered, air flow could be restricted causing improper air flow.

Important Please Read:

All recommendations for the use of PEAKfresh products are given in good faith and based on proven field experience. Packaging method, storage temperatures, storage humidity levels, transit and destination conditions are factors likely to affect the performance of PEAKfresh products and no liability for indirect or consequential damage can be accepted. We recommend that PEAKfresh products be tested under local conditions before introduction to large scale commercial applications.