

Fruit and Vegetable Washing Practices: Estimates from the 2006 FDA/FSIS Food Safety Survey

BAGGED, PRECUT LETTUCE

Percent (weighted) Who Engage in Each Practice from 2006 Food Safety Survey*																						
	Total	pp <130	pp 131-225	pp 226-414	>414	pp>185	pp<185	Age 18-59	Age 60+	Educ<HS	Educ HS	Educ HS+	Female	Male	No kids < 5 y	Kids < 5 y	White	Black	Asian	Other	All non-Hispanic	All Hispanic
Do you ever buy bagged, precut lettuce? Percent responding "yes"	70.50	63.52**	60.87**	75.29**	79.82**	74.90**	58.51**	73.07**	64.89**	62.46**	65.05**	76.10**	69.89	71.20	73.45	68.77	73.25**	65.97**	66.24**	61.56**	72.70**	56.67**
BASE N for BUY LETTUCE (unweighted)	1613	122	291	390	534	1107	230	1109	438	100	418	1070	1013	600	1074	224	1219	139	31	178	1405	187
Do you usually wash or rinse bagged, precut lettuce before eating it? Percent responding "yes"	49.73	69.45**	53.35**	43.19**	45.00**	45.44**	64.46**	46.81**	55.48**	67.64**	52.63**	44.69**	45.18**	55.35**	48.54	53.80					48.56**	63.04**
Of all the bags of precut lettuce available at the store, about how many of them contain lettuce that has already been washed? Would you say...																						
All of them	40.44	26.16**	33.22**	47.67**	42.67**	43.53**	25.32**	39.37	43.91	25.86**	39.08**	44.44**	40.23	40.67	40.31	33.72					42.47**	23.29**
Most of them	26.10	24.25**	21.97**	23.81**	31.14**	26.92**	21.76**	27.29	23.16	25.43**	27.02**	25.79**	27.41	24.56	26.48	27.00					25.80**	28.35**
Only some of them	25.35	33.90**	34.75**	22.45**	19.63**	22.81**	38.24**	25.12	24.96	34.18**	24.98**	23.24**	25.49	25.19	25.12	29.12					24.15**	34.45**
Non of them	8.12	15.69**	10.06**	6.07**	6.55**	6.74**	14.67**	8.22	7.97	14.53**	8.92**	6.53**	6.87	9.58	8.08	10.16					7.58**	13.91**

TOMATOES

Percent (weighted) Who Engage in Each Practice from 2006 Food Safety Survey*																						
	Total	pp <130	pp 131-225	pp 226-414	>414	pp>185	pp<185	Age 18-59	Age 60+	Educ<HS	Educ HS	Educ HS+	Female	Male	No kids < 5 y	Kids < 5 y	White	Black	Asian	Other	All non-Hispanic	All Hispanic
Do you ever buy tomatoes? Percent responding "yes"	88.3	92.05**	85.02**	87.44**	90.93**	87.92	90.03	87.9	89.09	89.83**	84.36**	90.63**	90.93**	85.41**	90.56**	86.83**	87.45**	85.06**	97.00**	93.52**	87.62**	94.77**
BASE N for ever buy TOMATOES (unweighted)	2029	184	409	468	603	1307	357	1349	599	156	559	1284	1310	719	1328	294	1460	181	45	275	1684	319
Do you usually wash or rinse tomatoes before you prepare or eat them? Percent responding "yes"	97	98.97	97.28	96.46	97.04	96.67**	98.89**	96.87	97.08	98.16	95.98	97.29	97.31	96.57	97.18	98.35					96.95	96.85
BASE N for USUALLY WASH (unweighted)	1965	180	396	454	583	1263	350	1307	579	152	536	1248	1270	695	1292	286	1414	177	45	262	1631	308
What method do you use to wash or rinse tomatoes? Please choose one or more. Do you...																						
rub them under running water, with a brush, cloth or your hands?	74.6	84.62**	77.45**	73.90**	72.19**	73.51**	82.52**	76.37**	71.11**	76.9	77.53	72.63	73.65	75.78	74.62	78.06					74.23	77.74
hold under running water, without rubbing them?	20.7	11.23**	19.92**	21.45**	23.21**	22.55**	13.12**	19.41**	23.40**	18.24**	17.16**	23.19**	20.36	21.14	21.49**	13.93**					21.44**	15.68**
soak them in a container of water?	3.03	3.87	2.73	1.39	4.21	2.49**	4.64**	3.2	2.56	2.63	2.74	3.3	3.90**	1.97**	2.45**	5.06**					2.69	4.72
use any type of cleaner to wash tomatoes?	7.14	5.19**	3.86**	7.17**	8.13**	6.95	4.3	6.63	7.55	6.71	5.64	7.87	8.42**	5.57**	6.37	7.32					7.28	5.05

CANTALOUPE

Percent (weighted) Who Engage in Each Practice from 2006 Food Safety Survey*																						
	Total	pp <130	pp 131-225	pp 226-414	>414	pp>185	pp<185	Age 18-59	Age 60+	Educ<HS	Educ HS	Educ HS+	Female	Male	No kids < 5 y	Kids < 5 y	White	Black	Asian	Other	All non-Hispanic	All Hispanic
Do you ever buy cantaloupe? Percent responding "yes"	77.3	68.58**	74.20**	77.26**	80.06**	78.17**	70.06**	73.36**	86.36**	74.12**	71.69**	81.27**	82.79**	71.66**	79.14**	69.94**	78.58**	68.53**	85.40**	74.87**	77.84**	71.81**
BASE N for ever buy CANTALOUPE (unweighted)	1806	145	375	375	563	1167	291	1161	561	128	450	1190	1163	643	1176	265	1357	135	37	204	1534	246
Do you usually wash or rinse cantaloupe before you prepare or cut it? Percent responding "yes"	56.6	69.01**	60.38**	53.77**	49.99**	52.42**	68.83**	56.49	57.28	60.73	56.45	56.46	56.41	56.92	57.44	64.2					54.54**	72.46**
BASE N for USUALLY WASH (unweighted)	1013	106	221	203	276	607	199	650	320	87	255	656	655	358	668	164					813	186
Do you usually use any of these methods to wash or rinse cantaloupe? Please choose one or more. Do you...																						
rub them under running water, with a brush, cloth or your hands?	71.4	78.05	70.95	68.78	68.03	70.41	70.23	69.4	74.16	72.74	70.83	71.14	70.48	72.56	69.25**	79.01**					71.83	71.66
hold under running water, without rubbing them?	20.8	20.81	20.88	23.98	22.48	21.74	23.34	22.06	20.07	16.78	20.4	22.45	19.91	21.82	21.11	19.15					20.71	23.56
soak them in a container of water?	3.98	4.11	5.82	2.66	1.68	2.11**	7.25**	4.54	3.04	9.92**	4.47**	2.25**	3.23	4.94	5.09**	0.78**					2.99	5.25
use any type of cleaner to wash cantaloupes?	7.39	1.28**	5.16**	8.11**	11.33**	8.79**	3.45**	8.67**	4.41**	0.56**	4.44**	10.25**	10.22**	3.78**	8.31	5.54					7.91	3.91

STRAWBERRIES

Percent (weighted) Who Engage in Each Practice from 2006 Food Safety Survey*																						
	Total	pp <130	pp 131-225	pp 226-414	>414	pp>185	pp<185	Age 18-59	Age 60+	Educ<HS	Educ HS	Educ HS+	Female	Male	No kids < 5 y	Kids < 5 y	White	Black	Asian	Other	All non-Hispanic	All Hispanic
Do you ever buy strawberries? Percent responding "yes"	87.1	82.74**	82.96**	90.26**	88.97**	87.57	84.14	87.05	87.57	81.27**	81.28**	92.05**	90.54**	83.57**	90.72**	85.25**	87.77**	78.46**	88.77**	88.45**	87.74**	83.11**
BASE N for ever buy STRAWBERRIES (unweighted)	2001	170	415	428	611	1281	343	1346	565	142	509	1309	1259	742	1313	321	1481	156	40	240	1686	289
Do you usually wash or rinse strawberries before you prepare or eat them? Percent responding "yes"	97.7	97.62**	96.82**	98.05**	97.93**	97.48	97.98	97.91	97.22	97.09	96.82	98.22	98.48	96.81	98.11	98.58					97.53	98.6
BASE N for USUALLY WASH (unweighted)	1957	166	404	421	596	1250	337	1318	551	138	493	1285	1240	717	1289	315	1447	155	40	232	1646	285
rub them under running water, with a brush, cloth or your hands?	42.9	59.48**	40.58**	42.04**	39.86**	40.14**	51.35**	48.88**	36.19**	49.67**	43.22**	40.79**	43.52	42.16	40.47**	60.57**					40.9**	58.34**
hold under running water, without rubbing them?	44.9	27.61**	43.63**	47.69**	51.98**	49.79**	32.45**	41.38**	48.02**	26.46**	43.74**	50.03**	42.21**	48.05**	46.82**	30.62**					46.55**	31.77**
soak them in a container of water?	16.3	22.27**	17.23**	14.43**	12.51**	14.26**	19.44**	13.69**	20.78**	23.20**	17.16**	14.11**	17.46	14.88	16.85	13.85					15.97	18.19
use any type of cleaner to wash strawberries?	4.04	2.43	4.31	3.82	4.39	4.06	3.8	4.24	3.76	5.44	3.32	4.26	5.31**	2.6**	3.94	4.49					4.1	3.86

* Unweighted frequencies used to determine the sample size for each question. Ns are for each group asked the question. Cells are speckled where the sample size is 50 or smaller, indicating the sample is smaller than recommended for reporting analyses.

** Indicates a statistically significant main effect at p<.05. Weighted frequencies used to calculate percentages.

NOTE: pp = percent of the poverty level; The income poverty guidelines for the 48 contiguous states plus DC were used (but not the lower values for Alaska and Hawaii) using data appropriate for the time of the survey (spring 2006). The "pp" data were calculated by using the midpoint of the income range response option reported (i.e., \$25,000 used for response "\$20,000-30,000") and a percent of poverty level was calculated using reported household size (i.e., for household size = 3; income midpoint = \$25,000; pp = 151%). Please note that 833 respondents refused to answer the income question and are missing from any category of percent poverty.