

# STEPS TO SAFE AND HEALTHY FRUITS & VEGETABLES

## From the Store to Your Table

Fruits and vegetables are healthy to eat. But did you know that harmful germs, like *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, and *Listeria*, can sometimes be on fruits and vegetables? There are steps that can help keep you healthy—and your fruits and vegetables safer to eat—from the store to your table.



### Fruit and Vegetable Safety at the Store or Market



#### Check for Bruises

- Choose fruits and vegetables that are free of bruises or damaged spots, unless you plan to cook them.



#### Keep Precut Fruits and Vegetables Cold

- Choose precut and packaged fruits and vegetables that are refrigerated or kept on ice.

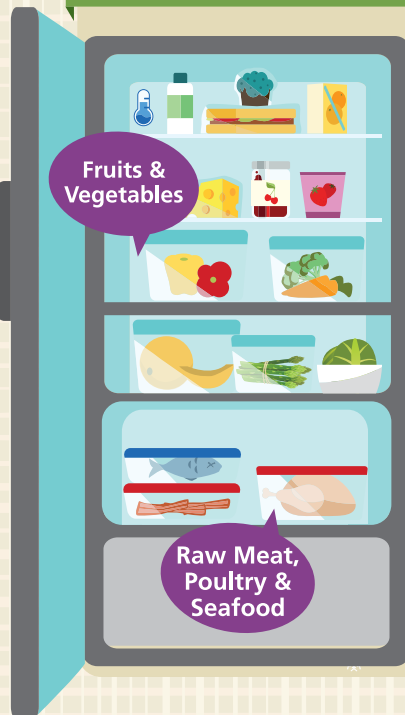


#### Separate

- Separate fruits and vegetables from raw meat, poultry, and seafood in your shopping cart and in your grocery bags.

Get fruits & vegetables home and in the fridge in 2 hours or less

### Fruit and Vegetable Safety at Home



#### Wash

- Wash your hands before and after preparing fruits and vegetables.
- Wash or scrub all fruits and vegetables under running water before eating, cutting, or cooking.
- Fruits and vegetables labeled “prewashed” do not need to be washed again at home.



#### Keep Cold

- Refrigerate cut, peeled, or cooked fruits and vegetables as soon as possible, or within 2 hours.
- Use a refrigerator thermometer to make sure the temperature stays at 40°F or below.



#### Separate

- Store fruits and vegetables away from, and not next to or below, raw meat, poultry, and seafood. These items can drip juices that may have germs.
- Use a separate cutting board for fruits and vegetables that is never used for cutting or preparing raw meats, poultry, or seafood.
- Wash cutting boards, counter tops, and utensils with hot, soapy water before and after preparing fruits and vegetables.

For more information, call 1-800-CDC-INFO or visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

CS239285



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention