

You can help a flower cooler use less energy by limiting how long its door stays open, keeping its equipment clean, and choosing temperatures that suit the flowers stored inside. Checking the cooler regularly can also help you find issues before they make the system work harder.

Hold on to the cool air

Opening the door allows chilled air to leave and warmer air to move in. Have staff group their cooler tasks so they can pick up several things during one visit. Arrange often used flowers within easy reach, and make choices or prepare buckets after closing the door rather than leaving it open.

Look over the door gaskets for grime, splits, or spaces where air might escape. A worn or damaged gasket may leak even if the door appears to be shut. Clean the seals as directed in the equipment instructions, and arrange to replace them if they can no longer close tightly.

Keep buckets, cartons, and wrapping away from the doorway so nothing blocks the door. At the end of a busy shift, staff should confirm that the door has closed and latched properly. A clear doorway makes it easier for the door to seal as intended.

Check settings and care for the equipment

Use a thermometer to confirm the actual temperature instead of depending only on the cooler's control display. Set the temperature for the flowers being stored. Tropical varieties can be harmed by low temperatures, so their storage needs may differ from those of other cut flowers.

Avoid making the cooler colder than needed. Follow the guidance provided by flower suppliers and the equipment maker. If temperatures seem different from one part of the cooler to another, take readings in several locations rather than relying on a single spot.

1. **Take a reading each day.** Check the temperature at the same time daily and write it down. Look into unexplained changes, while remembering that a recent delivery may affect a reading.
2. **Examine the door and its seals.** Check for wear or damage, and make sure stored items do not stop the door from closing.
3. **Leave room for air to move.** Keep vents uncovered and avoid pressing flowers or supplies against them. Allow air to circulate around the buckets in storage.
4. **Arrange regular servicing.** Follow the manufacturer's maintenance schedule and have a qualified technician inspect the refrigeration system.
5. **Track energy use over time.** Compare electricity bills, but consider changes in the weather, business hours, and the quantity of stock kept in the cooler.

Dust or dirt on condenser coils can reduce the efficiency of refrigeration equipment. Clean them only as the manufacturer's instructions recommend. For work involving electrical or refrigeration parts, use a qualified technician. Tell a technician about unusual sounds, ice forming, or a cooler that seems to run without stopping. Reporting these signs early is better than waiting for the equipment to fail.

If the cooler permits it, turn off its lights when they are not needed. Before changing a bulb, check which efficient lamps work with the fixture and are appropriate for use in a cooler.

Common questions about cooler energy

Is it a good idea to switch off the cooler overnight?

Keep it running if the flowers inside need refrigeration. Switching it off can leave the stock at temperatures that are not suitable. Instead, make sure the door is secure, the setting is appropriate, and maintenance is up to date.

Will filling the cooler more completely always save energy?

No. How the cooler is loaded, how well air can circulate, the condition of the equipment, and how often the door opens all affect energy use. Do not overfill it, since blocked airflow can lead to uneven temperatures.

What signs can point to an air leak?

Check for visible gaps or damaged gaskets, and see whether the door shuts evenly. If a seal looks loose or the cooler has trouble keeping its temperature, ask a technician to inspect the door.

A useful next read: sending flowers to a loved one in Europe