

**Food Safety News Reports:
Research Shows Corrugated Boxes Enter the Food Chain
Clean**



Corrugated Packaging Delivers

Third study confirms corrugated boxes are clean at all points in the supply chain: manufacturing, delivery and recycling.

Food Safety News

Breaking news for everyone's consumption

A new study has confirmed what proponents of single-use corrugated containers have said for years - the corrugating process uses temperatures high enough to kill germs, ensuring that the boxes don't introduce pathogens into the food supply chain.

Maryann Sanders, senior regulatory specialist and microbiologist at Haley & Aldrich Inc., directed the NSF International study, which was sponsored by the Corrugated Packaging Alliance.

"The main point of the study was to make sure our house is in order. We had the hypothesis, but it hadn't been proven until this research was done."

- Maryann Sanders, Haley & Aldrich

Some retailers have begun requiring RPCs for fresh produce shipments. However, research showed RPCs on the same pallet ranged from zero microbial organisms to 10 million organisms. Sanders said she suspects the

wildly different levels are a reflection of inadequate or improper sanitizing between uses.

"If I were a retailer or a supplier, I wouldn't want to be the first one to have a documented problem."

- Maryann Sanders, Haley & Aldrich

Trevor Suslow, an extension specialist and food safety researcher at the University of California-Davis, consulted on both the RPC study and the corrugated study. He said fresh produce growers and shippers frequently ask him whether they should use single-use corrugated containers or RPCs. The answer is not easily determined.

Suslow said the basic concept of multi-use containers sets them up to become contaminated, especially if they are used for commodities that are packed in the field, which includes many fresh produce commodities.

"The pressure of retailer requirements cannot be ignored. When a customer says they want to receive products in RPCs, some growers cannot afford to say no."

- Trevor Suslow, University of California-Davis

This study follows two previous reports since 2013, including on-site swabbing at six different corrugated manufacturers in three geographies and data from the corrugated recycling process that destroys microbial loads should contaminated product transfer to packaging.

Click the link to read the full story:

<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2016/02/research-shows-corrugated-boxes-enter-the-food-chain-clean/#.VscusfkrLbh>
