

## 3 Things To Look For When Buying Ethylene Scrubbers

(Media, PA) It seems like every other day, another fresh produce warehouse or distribution center announces that they've installed an air purification system, eliminating ethylene and reducing airborne contaminants, increasing the freshness and safety of their produce.

To be sure, air purification and ethylene scrubbing can make a huge impact on the bottom line for fresh produce operations, where reductions in shrink create additional pure profit.

If you are thinking about joining their ranks, and are investigating ethylene scrubbers for your facility, you might agree that the conflicting claims of the various providers can be confusing, to say the least.

We installed our first ethylene scrubber in 1992, and have years of experience with the various types.

Here is our advice on what to look for.

1. No ozone. While ozone has been shown to be an effective agent in reducing contaminants in both air and water, the maximum safe level for personnel is 1/10<sup>th</sup> ppm (parts per million.) At levels this low, ozone is not a very effective disinfectant. And even if part of your warehouse 500 feet away from the generator is at a safe level, imagine what the ozone level is right next to the generator. There are a number of technologies available that don't use ozone, all competitively priced. Don't use ozone in occupied areas; it's not worth the risk.
2. No pellets. Some ethylene scrubbers use pellets impregnated with potassium permanganate. The pellets look like purple rabbit food. As the active chemical in them is consumed, the pellets turn gray. As more and more of the pellets change color in the scrubber, its effectiveness diminishes greatly. To maintain peak efficiency, you might be tempted to change out the pellets early, before they all turn gray. However, if you do, you waste money, and you also have a hazardous material to properly dispose of - the unexpended potassium permanganate. Your "system" for managing pellet replacement, is to have a worker open each scrubber, reach in and stir the pellets with his hands, and make a judgment as to whether it is time to change them. This is not a very reliable "system". So, no pellets either.
3. Unit sizing for your application. Some manufacturers specialize in wall-hung units suitable to small spaces, such as operating rooms or walk-in coolers. While these units might 2 of our 3 criteria - for no ozone and no pellets - in order to protect your entire warehouse, you might need 200 of them or more. If you are looking to clean the air in a large cold storage or

processing facility, look for a supplier that offers warehouse-sized air purifiers. A smaller number of larger units will decrease your purchase price, operating costs, and maintenance, too.

For more information on air purification and ethylene scrubbers, please visit us at: [www.CA-Refrigeration.com](http://www.CA-Refrigeration.com). Our air purifiers use Photo Catalytic Oxidation to rid the air of virtually all impurities, including ethylene, mold, mildew, bacteria, and pathogens, without ozone, pellets, or odor.

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