

HOME FOOD SAFETY MYTHBUSTERS

True/False Food Safety Quiz 2014

1: True or False? _____

Rinsing ready to eat greens increases the potential for cross-contamination.

2: True or False? _____

Pathogens are unable to survive and grow in cold temperatures.

3: True or False? _____

You should never dry fresh fruits and vegetables after rinsing them.

4: True or False? _____

There are many ways that bacteria on the outside of a melon can get into the part you eat.

ANSWER KEY

1: TRUE

Rinsing of ready-to-eat greens will not enhance safety, but could increase the potential for cross-contamination. Pathogens that may be on your hands or on kitchen surfaces could find their way onto your greens in the process of handling them.

2: FALSE

Some bacteria can survive and even grow in cool, moist environments like the refrigerator. In fact, *Listeria monocytogenes* grows at temperatures as low as 35.6°F!

3: FALSE

Research has found that using a clean cloth or paper towel to blot dry fresh fruits and vegetables further reduces the level of harmful bacteria on the surface of fresh produce. But remember – the towel must be clean!

4: TRUE

There are many ways for pathogens on the outside of the melon to contaminate the edible portion. A knife or peeler passing through the rind can carry pathogens from the outside into the flesh of the melon. The rind also touches the edible portion when cut fruit is arranged or stacked for serving and garnish. Follow [these instructions](#) when enjoying fresh produce.