

Packing and Storage of Japanese Green Tea

Deterioration of the Quality of Green Tea during the Storage

Different from desiccated foods, the quality of Japanese green tea is extremely changeable during storage time. If the storage method of green tea is failed, the quality decreases within a short time and its commercial value is remarkably lost as well.

Under high temperature and humidity, the oxidative reactions of chlorophyll, catechins and other components of green tea occur vigorously. Correspondingly, the color of leaves and liquor turns to brown, giving an unfavorable color, test

and aroma. In addition to oxygen, sun light also degrades chlorophyll, turning the color of leaves and liquor to brown. Sun light also changes the aroma of the leaves, so called " sunny smell ". The tea leaves absorb not only the moisture but also other aroma or odor like a charcoal and subsequently the inherent aroma of tea is changed.

The best storage condition for saving the quality of green tea is keeping in dark and lowering temperature, humidity and oxygen level.

Packing and Storage Method of Green Tea

Crude Tea and Refined Tea

Generally, crude tea is stored for a short period in a 3 layer bag, so called " Daikai ;" to prevent from atmospheric moisture. This bag is consisted of two craft paper bags (75 g/m²) and one polyethylene bag (0.03 mm) inside. Usually, package units of 30 kg are mainly used. The storage period of refined tea is longer than that of crude tea. Therefore, to prevent the deterioration, crude tea is sealed in oxygen free, high gas barrier package filled with nitrogen gas.

Both crude and refined tea are stored in a refrigerators. For a long storage, the temperature of refrigerator is set at - 20 .



Storage using " Daikai " in a refrigerator

Product

At the counters of retail shops and specialized tea stores, the small packages of tea, 100 - 500 g unit, are exposed to high temperature, humidity and the fluorescent light. On other hand, their shape and the color should be attractive for consumers. Because of easy manufacturing, economical and operational advantages, the laminated film packages, consisted of aluminum foil with two or more different materials, are widely used together with nitrogen gas replacing.



Tea Package



Retail shop