

California Walnuts

Walnut Marketing Board/California Walnut Commission www.walnuts.org



California shelled walnuts are available in a variety of sizes and colors. Descriptions and size tolerances are based on the USDA Standards for Grades of Shelled Walnuts. These are highlighted in **green** text. Also included are some size categories commonly used in the industry and these are highlighted with **brown** text. Screen sizes are for reference only. Consult your California walnut supplier for exact specifications.

Walnut Halves

Description: 7/8 or more of the kernel is intact. 85% or more of lot, by weight, are half kernels with the remainder three-fourths half kernels.

USDA Size Tolerances: No more than 5% smaller than three-fourths halves of which no more than 1% may pass through 16/64 inch (6.35 mm) round screen hole. (see Table 3)

Refer to Example 1

Walnut Pieces and Halves (Halves and Pieces)

Description: 20% or more of lot, by weight, are half kernels (7/8 or more of the kernel is intact).

USDA Size Tolerances: No more than 18% shall pass through 24/64 inch (9.52 mm) round hole of which no more than 3% may pass through 16/64 inch (6.35 mm) and of 3% no more than 1% may pass through 8/64 inch (3.18 mm) round screen hole. (see Table 3)

Refer to Examples 2 and 3

Walnut Pieces

Description: Portions of kernels in lot cannot pass through 24/64 inch (9.52 mm) round openings.

USDA Size Tolerances: No more than 25% shall pass through 24/64 inch (9.52 mm) round hole of which no more than 5% may pass through 16/64 inch (6.35 mm) and of 5% no more than 1% may pass through 8/64 inch (3.18 mm) round hole included in the 5%. (see Table 3)

Refer to Examples 4 and 5

Walnut Medium Pieces

Although not covered in USDA Standards, Medium Pieces are a common size classification used in the California walnut industry. No less than 98% may pass through a 32/64 inch (12.7 mm) screen. No more than 3% may pass through 16/64 inch (6.35 mm) screen. No more than 1% may pass through 8/64 (3.18 mm) screen.

Refer to Examples 6, 7, 8, and 10

Walnut Small Pieces

Description: Portions of kernels in lot pass through 24/64 inch (9.53 mm) round openings but cannot pass through 8/64 inch (3.18 mm) round openings.

USDA Size Tolerances: 10% will not pass through 24/64 inch (9.53 mm) round hole and 2% pass through 8/64 inch (3.18 mm) round hole. (see Table 3)

Refer to Example 11 and 12

Walnut Meal (double diced)

The smallest form of the California walnut comes in various consistencies ranging from a coarse meal to a fine powder. Use walnut meal to dust cakes, integrate into dough and batter, and for walnut compounds. Finely ground walnuts are incorporated into pastas, added to fillings, and used as a thickening agent in sauces.

Refer to Example 15

Topping Pieces

	SQUARE HOLE	ROUND HOLE
1/4	20/64	28/64
	6.35 mm	7.94 mm

Typical industry screen sizes

Refer to Example 13

Syrupers

	SQUARE HOLE	ROUND HOLE
3/8	28/64	28/64
	9.53 mm	11.11 mm

Typical industry screen sizes

Refer to Example 9

Walnut Colors

California walnuts may be color sorted to meet specific product needs. The walnut spectrum chart (for comparison only) illustrates the wide range of color classifications available.

A Extra light: No more than 15% shall be darker than extra light of which only 2% (included in the 15%) may be darker than light.

B Light: No more than 15% shall be darker than light of which only 2% (included in the 15%) may be darker than light amber.

C Light amber: No more than 15% shall be darker than light amber of which only 2% (included in the 15%) may be darker than amber.

D Amber: No more than 10% shall be darker than amber.

The official color chart is available from:

DFA
710 Striker Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95834-1112
Tel: 916-561-5900 Fax: 916-561-5906
www.dfaoca.com



TABLE 3 (USDA STANDARDS)

SIZE CLASSIFICATION	Tolerance for Size			
	SMALLER THAN 3/4 HALVES	WILL NOT PASS THROUGH 24/64" ROUND HOLE	PASS THROUGH 24/64" ROUND HOLE	PASS THROUGH 16/64" ROUND HOLE
Halves	5%			1% (included in 5%)
Pieces and Halves*			18%	3% (included in 18%)
Pieces			25%	5% (included in 25%)
Small Pieces**		10%		1% (included in 5%)
				2%

*No part of any tolerance shall be used to reduce the percentage of halves required or specified in a lot of "pieces and halves"

**The tolerance of 10% and 2% for "small pieces" classification shall apply, respectively, to any smaller minimum or any larger minimum size specified.

Note: The industry standard of 6/64 is tighter than the USDA standard of 8/64.

Source: USDA, United States Standards for Grades of Shelled Walnuts (Juglans regia). Agricultural Marketing Service. Effective September 1, 1968, reprinted January, 1997. <http://www.ams.usda.gov/standards/walnuts.pdf> (Adobe Acrobat format).