



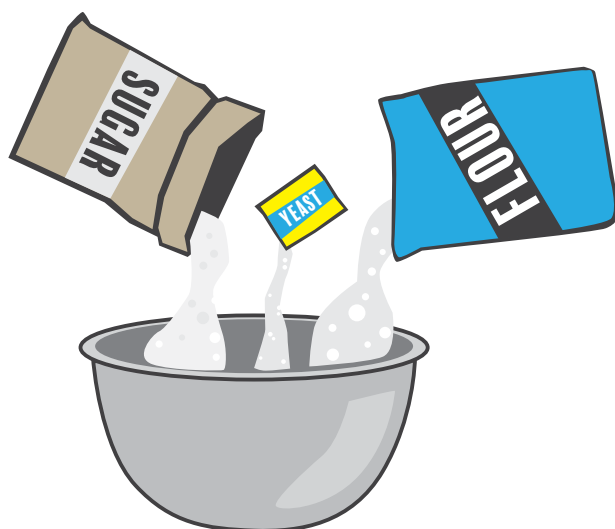
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN INGREDIENTS AND PROCESSING/PACKAGING AIDS

In organic certification, understanding the difference between ingredients and processing/packaging aids is essential. This infographic illustrates the distinction between the two, showing how ingredients appear on the final product label while processing/packaging aids typically do not.

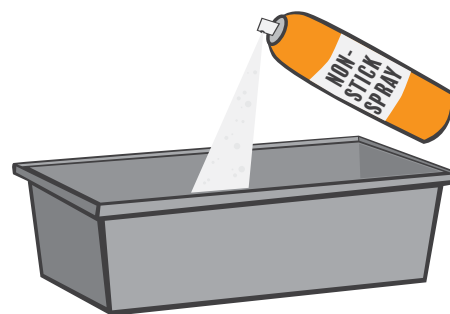
USDA organic regulation § 205.2 has the official definitions. Below here are plain language working definitions for handlers and processors:

Ingredients: Substances added during processing that remain in the final product. They are printed on the product's final retail label. For example, wheat is an ingredient of bread.

Processing/Packaging Aids: Substances used during processing that may not remain in the final product, or if they do, only in very small amounts. They have no technical or functional effect in the final product. They will normally not appear on the product's retail label. For example, the nonstick oil sprayed on the pan for the bread before baking is a processing aid.



1 Ingredients are combined



2 Spray release agent (processing aid) applied



3 Time to bake



4 No spray listed on final packaging

SOURCES CITED

USDA National Organic Program, [7 CFR §205.2](#).



United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
National Organic Program

