

Case Study 2:

What would YOU do?

Read the following case study to see what was done incorrectly, and how changes can make the garden a safer place.

Javier woke up feeling very well and ready to work this Thursday. After getting ready, he went to work and ready to pick some fruits and vegetables from the field. As he arrived, Javier walked into the field in his sandals and started picking the produce. Javier left his harvesting bin on the ground because he didn't have a vehicle or bench to put it on. By the time he got to the middle of the field, Javier had to use the restroom very badly. He walked into the portable restroom available. There was not soap present, so he just decided to rub his hands on his shirt and go back to picking the fruits and vegetables. Earlier in the shift, Javier's boss informed him that pesticides were applied to the field prior to his arrival. Javier remembered that the chemical containers were on the other side of the field. He decided that he could leave them in the garden for the night and would pick them up tomorrow when he returns. As Javier was leaving the garden, he saw some rotten tomatoes on the ground by the other fruits and vegetables. He decided to leave them where they were so the nutrients from the tomatoes could benefit the soil. Once the produce got to post-harvest production, Javier put the refrigerated produce in the refrigerator. When it was time to continue production, he removed the most recently refrigerated produce items from storage to continue the processing steps. Javier did not take any records of temperatures, storage times, dates, or cleaning and sanitizing practices.

1. What did Javier do wrong?

2. What can YOU do to avoid these problems?