



Installation of Field Toilets and Hand Washing Stations to Increase Worker Hygiene & Sanitation

Joshua Silva¹, Jensen Uyeda¹, Steve Fukuda¹, Lynn Nakamura-Tengan², Sharon Wages¹, Kylie Wong¹, and Jari Sugano³

¹Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences

²Human Nutrition, Food and Animal Sciences

³Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences



Do-It-Yourself: Mobile restroom and hand washing station

Maintaining good personal hygiene is important to minimize the spread of food borne illnesses in commercial food production operations. The FDA estimates approximately 48 million cases annually are related to food borne illnesses, which is equivalent to 1 in 6 Americans getting sick every year. These illnesses cause an estimated 128,000 hospitalizations and 3,000 deaths annually.

Providing field workers with access to restroom (toilet) and hand washing facilities is an integral part of a good food safety program. Employers must provide access to toilets and hand washing stations to employees regardless of their working location to reduce the spread of contamination via human pathogens, blood, and other bodily fluids. Food handlers must undergo an educational training program on proper worker hygiene practices which may include education on hand washing, use of toilet facilities, eating, smoking, tobacco use, coming to work sick, wearing clean clothing, the use of jewelry, and proper sanitation of farm tools.

As part of a good food safety program, employers are required to provide a toilet facility within a ¼ mile of the field site or provide transportation for the employee to access a toilet facility within a 5-minute drive. Toilet facilities must be properly stocked with toilet paper and cleaned regularly. Service logs should be utilized and properly maintained. Toilet systems must provide for the sanitary disposal of human waste and toilet paper, with no runoff into the production areas.

Providing restrooms and hand washing stations away from the packing area can be challenging. Rather than building a stationary restroom facility in the field, contracted services maybe used to install temporary and movable field toilet facilities for mobile working crews. Hand washing stations can be made with home improvement or garden store products.



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Handwashing stations must be provided and readily available to prevent contamination of produce food, contact surfaces, water sources, and water distribution systems from human waste, human pathogens, blood, and other bodily fluids. Stations should be equipped with soap, running (potable) water, hand drying devices (such as single use paper towels, air blower, etc.), and waste disposal for dirty water and hand towels. Hand washing should be done after using the toilet, before starting work, before putting on gloves, upon returning to work after a break, after touching an animal or animal waste, after coughing or sneezing, etc.

Increased access to readily available and properly placed restroom and worker sanitation stations can reduce the risk of human pathogens contaminating fresh produce.

other simple, do-it-yourself (DIY) restroom and hand washing stations.

Five main parts of a mobile hand washing station

Here are examples of

DIY Examples:



DIY hand washing systems with potable water, single use paper towels, and a catchment for the dirty water and trash



Commercial hand washing station by Scrub N Go



Stationary in field restroom and hand washing station



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Portable hand washing station equipped with potable water, soap, single use paper towel, catchment for dirty water and towels



Dirty water catchment system and disposal hose



Contracted service in-field restroom facility (a) that is properly re-stocked with toilet paper (b)

Date cleaned	Who cleaned	Supplies needed	Place X in box under what you did					Refilled soap; restocked toilet paper and paper towels
			Cleaned Toilet	Cleaned Sink	Swept Floor	Mopped Floor	Emptied Trash	
8/19/17	Maile	Hand sanitizer Toilet paper Toilet brush	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	refilled soap
8/26/17	John	Hand sanitizer Toilet paper Toilet brush	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
9/2/17	Karen	Hand sanitizer Toilet paper Toilet brush	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Restroom cleaning and service log



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