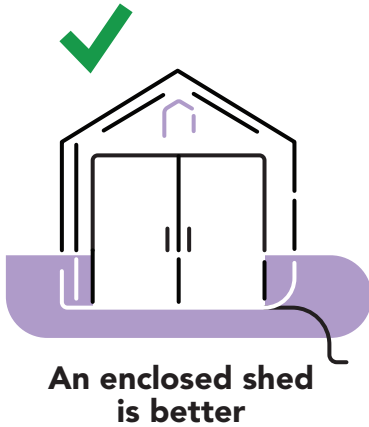


# Premises & Equipment



Farm buildings and equipment that are poorly constructed and maintained can increase the chances of product contamination.

## Farm buildings



The purpose of farm buildings and facilities is to protect products and inputs from damage and contamination and to allow growers to handle products safely and efficiently.

Many small-scale operations use simple and partly-open buildings and facilities that can assist in protecting products and inputs. However fully-enclosed sheds with concrete floors provide better protection and are easier to clean and maintain.

Regardless of the type of buildings and facilities used, ensure they are well designed, built and maintained to minimise the chances of damage to products and risk of contamination.

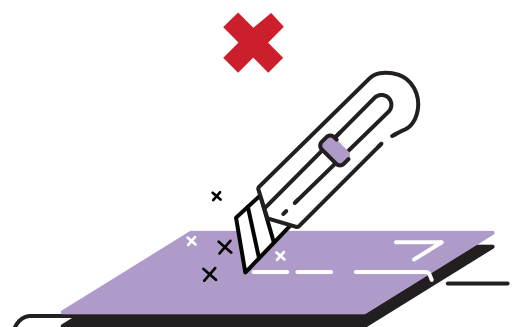
## Equipment safety

Ensure all equipment is fit for use and is appropriate to handle the produce you are handling.

Keep chemicals, fuel, oil, grease, fertilisers, and manure-based products stored in locations separate from produce, produce-handling equipment and packaging material. The mechanical and repairs workshop must be separate from produce-handling and storage areas.

Check, clean, and disinfect water storage tanks at least once a year.

Knives must have solid blades. Never use breakable blades (e.g. Stanley/ snap-off bladed knives). Wash all harvesting tools daily with a soap solution.



## Broken equipment



Repair or discard all broken containers and equipment to avoid contamination with pieces of plastic, metal, or wood.

Pay particular attention to all surfaces that come in direct contact with produce (e.g. crates, washing tanks, packing lines). Those surfaces should be made from materials such as plastics, stainless steel, or other food-grade materials that are easy to clean.

In the cool room, ensure that the cooling unit does not drip water on produce. If necessary, add a drip pan to drain the water out of the room.

Check all facilities and equipment at least once a month, and make a list of all the repair and maintenance jobs that are needed.