

CASE STUDY

From Contamination Crisis to Compliance Champion

How GDI Helped a U.S. Food Manufacturer Achieve Operational Excellence



Project Details

Location
Midwest, USA

Number of Buildings
5

System Implemented
Comprehensive sanitation protocols and standardized cleaning procedures

Project Goal
Significantly reduce, and ultimately eliminate, the presence of microorganisms within the facility

Project Duration
October 2024 - Current

Impact at a Glance

- ✓ Contamination rate dropped from **60% → 1%**
- ✓ 100% resolution of contamination issues at original site
- ✓ Full audit compliance maintained
- ✓ Nationwide expansion of GDI's services into 4 additional facilities
- ✓ Avoided potential losses of **\$75k → \$500k** from shutdowns
- ✓ Reduced risk of \$10M in recalls and \$19M in FDA fines



Challenge

A U.S. food manufacturer was experiencing a serious contamination crisis at one of its facilities.

More than 70% of all microbiological swabs were testing positive, creating a significant risk to product safety, regulatory compliance, and brand reputation.

Improper sanitation practices and counterproductive production behaviors were identified as contributing factors.

The potential financial implications were substantial.

Industry data shows that plant shutdowns can cost between \$75,000 and \$500,000, the average food recall carries a \$10 million price tag, and recent FDA fines have reached as high as \$19 million.

With so much at stake, the manufacturer needed an immediate and effective solution to address the contamination and prevent costly consequences.



Solution

- ✓ GDI implemented a two-pronged intervention.
- ✓ First, the sanitation team was retrained to meet industry standards, with a focus on thorough cleaning protocols and consistent execution.
- ✓ Second, the production team received targeted coaching to modify daily behaviors that were contributing to contamination risks.

The impact was immediate and measurable.
Contamination rates dropped from over

60% —→ 1%

once GDI assumed responsibility for cleaning operations.

By reinforcing proper protocols, increasing accountability, and ensuring compliance, the facility was able to maintain full audit readiness while protecting itself from the financial and operational risks of shutdowns, recalls, and fines.



Methodology

GDI conducted a comprehensive on-site assessment of both the sanitation and production process.

This included direct observation of cleaning practices, analysis of workflow, and evaluation of the production team's role in contributing to contamination.

The assessment allowed GDI to pinpoint critical gaps and design a corrective action plan tailored to the facility's specific needs.



The Ripple Effect

- ✓ Client invited GDI to evaluate 4 more facilities nationwide.
- ✓ Expanded partnership proved that solving one site's issues can transform an entire operation