



Improving Efficiency in the Warehouse: Key Strategies to Improve Data Collection

STREAMLINING WORKFLOW PROCESSES IN THE WAREHOUSE IS CRITICAL TO CREATING GREATER EFFICIENCIES FOR YOUR WORKFORCE AND YOUR BUSINESS.

With data collection automation being one of the most important functions to maintain the efficient flow of goods from one location to another, it's critical to ensure that key strategies are followed to maximize the team effort.

The following best practices guide will allow your warehouse to operate at its peak efficiency. You'll get goods out the door to the customer as fast as possible, but never sacrifice quality or profit.



Develop a System to Automate Warehouse Processes

Inventory can be a nightmare to track if you don't have the right tools to manage it effectively. If your operations do not currently include a barcoding solution in your warehouse, the time is now to begin evaluating areas of biggest need (inventory management and track and trace, for example) and research solutions that will satisfy 80% of your requirements and easily integrate with your ERP system.



Think Mobile

Mobile technology not only boosts worker productivity but also minimizes opportunity for error since tasks are carried out at the point of work. Fewer back-and-forth trips to a workstation and fewer interruptions increase worker effectiveness and control labor costs. Mobile devices, like handheld computers, smartphones, and tablets, are a desirable step toward greater profitability because they power significant improvements:

- Information at a user's fingertips with access to the network, GPS, the Internet, and frequently-used business applications
- Employees to get answers quickly and to communicate effectively with co-workers, customers, and suppliers
- A return on your investment in a matter of months



Ride the Wave: Android™ OS

Microsoft's decision to end support for Windows® Mobile and Windows Handheld have forced organizations to take steps toward migrating their technology to a more flexible operating system: Android. With their familiarity among consumers, Android devices are secure and easily adopted on a broad scale. To alleviate the sense of urgency, industrial mobile device manufacturers are developing devices that offer a dual operating system so users can easily migrate to Android at their own pace, rather than scrambling when their existing devices end their useful life. Along with the OS migration, the industry is also facing change concerning cellular networks. Verizon is the first to announce the end of 2G and 3G networks, leaving users in the lurch if they have not upgraded to a 4G/LTE device for voice and data communications on their handheld mobile devices.



Don't Rule out RFID

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) can be of great benefit in the warehouse, particularly for operations that require forklift operation. The technology and unit cost have improved, along with reliability, which offers a better user experience.

Advantages of RFID in the Warehouse

- Improves inventory accuracy by as much as 40%
- Limits the amount of handling because there is no need to individually scan and sort, making the effort less cumbersome and prone to error
- Makes locating inventory easier and instantaneous
- Ensures less shrinkage with the ability to pinpoint when inventory was moved from the location
- Provides greater visibility, resulting in fewer stock-outs



Consult an Expert

It can be risky to try to develop a system on your own if you don't have the right set of skills on your team, not to mention the time it takes away from their day-to-day operations. Taking the time to find a solution provider who understands how to streamline operations in the warehouse or on the manufacturing floor will save you money and headaches in the long run. Carefully choose your solution provider and do your homework. Be sure to ask for references and a walk-through of one of their customer's warehouses to get to know their level of expertise and style.

Ready to take that first step?

Contact Taylor Data Systems today at info@taylordata.com, or call us at 877-331-7427 to get started.



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