



10 Warehouse Improvement Tactics You Can Start Tomorrow

This checklist is designed for companies currently using mostly manual processes in their warehouses. It's important to remember that automation is a journey, not a destination. The good news? You can start that journey tomorrow (or today).

#1 Maximize Space Utilization

- Store similar height products on the same shelf to create more useable storage space
- Subdivide your storage bins to maximize shelving inventory
- Utilize the full depth of your racking or shelving potential area

#2 Improve Slotting for Faster Access

- Keep fast moving, popular SKUs highly accessible (end of aisle at waist height)
- Consider storing SKUs frequently picked together as a kit
- Review slotting quarterly & adjust based on demand

#3 Enhance Labor Efficiency

- Clear aisles of all clutter
- Ensure product is organized and quickly accessible
- Use clear signage and labels to help workers stay organized
- Invest in ergonomic tools & processes

#4 Streamline Picking Processes

- Make sure your facility flow is going in one direction
- Minimize product touches
- Use pedometers to track workers' walking time
- Pick directly into a shipper container

#5 Increase Picking Accuracy

- Use barcode scanners for quick and accurate picking/putting
 - Weigh outbound items to easily verify orders
 - Consider a second verification step to reduce misspicks
 - Incentivize high picking accuracy
 - Implement pick to light, pick to voice, wearable task accessories
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#6 Improve Inventory Control

- Conduct regular cycle counting to maintain accurate inventory levels
 - Create minimum reorder quantity ordering
 - Put time and effort into your Inventory Handling processes
 - Plan for future growth
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#7 Strengthen Returns Management

- Have a documented returns process
 - Designate clear return zones to void cross-contamination
 - Evaluate quality control processes to ensure returns are ready to resell
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#8 Protect High Value Inventory

- Use locked storage for high value items with camera visibility
 - Implement scan-based verifications to access & monitor inventory
 - Consider implementing RFID to track High Value items
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#9 Build Flexible Processes for Peaks

- Design the warehouse with flexibility
 - Cross-Train employees so they can shift between zones
 - Implement flexible picking strategies to balance workloads
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#10 Create an Automation Strategy

- Highlight your pain points and address them first for the fastest ROI
- Establish KPIs before you start
- Start with simple and straightforward automation
- Build a strong software foundation with a WMS

These tactics were originally presented at Kardex's MODEX 2026 seminar, "10 Warehouse Improvement Tactics You Can Start Tomorrow." Scan or click the QR code to access the full takeaway package from the session, including more resources like the Session Slide Deck, an ASRS Project Management Calculator, an ASRS Management Buy-in Toolkit, and 2026 Integrated Warehouse Systems Report Analysis.

