

10 ways to gain more space in your DC

If your DC operation is facing a space crunch, it doesn't necessarily mean you have to move out or build out. There are some creative ways to gain additional room. Here are 10 ideas for getting the most from your existing DC. (Note that some of these ideas can also be incorporated into the design of a new facility.)

1

Consider automated storage

Automated equipment such as automated storage and retrieval systems (AS/RS), carousels, vertical lift modules, and shuttle systems can hold a large volume of goods in a small space.



2

Mount conveyors overhead

Free up floor space by hanging conveyors (like the monorail shown here) from the ceiling on brackets. This allows room below for picking or for forklift traffic to flow unimpeded.



3

Add a mezzanine

Building a mezzanine can provide additional workspace for picking, packing, and value-added service areas.



4

Opt for narrow-aisle storage

Narrow aisles within storage areas allow for more rack positions within the same footprint. Wire-guided forklifts and reach trucks are typically used to access products in narrow-aisle operations.

5

Optimize your inventory

Remove obsolete and excess products from your inventory to free up space for new SKUs (stock-keeping units).



6

Use the space above dock doors

Take advantage of the space above dock doors to store maintenance items, packaging materials, cleaning supplies, and other items that aren't needed on a daily basis.

7

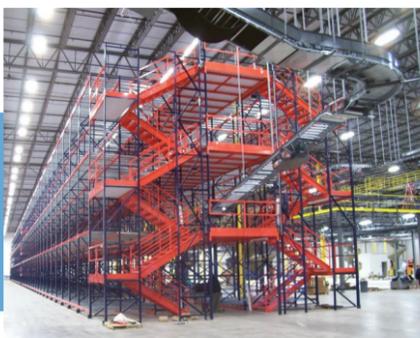
Invest in slotting software

The use of slotting software can maximize the amount of inventory stored within each rack or shelf position.

8

Use multilevel pick modules

Picking modules can be built with multiple levels to provide easy access to many products within a small footprint.



9

Use pushback and drive-in racks

Drive-in and pushback racks allow products to be stored several pallets deep along rack fronts.



10

Raise the roof!

If your facility has a low clearance height, consider expanding upward. There are construction firms that specialize in raising the roofs of DCs, providing space for additional racks and mezzanines at a fraction of the cost of a horizontal expansion.



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