

EBOOK

THE WAREHOUSE MANAGER'S GUIDE TO  
**ELIMINATING**  
**OPERATIONAL**  
**WASTE**

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THE HUMAN ELEMENT  
OF AUTOMATION™

# INTRODUCTION

Identifying waste in a facility is the first step to eliminating it. Unnecessary walking, pre-printing labels in bulk, bottlenecks, and over-processing of goods all erode profit margins that warehouse operators cannot afford to lose in today's tight-margin environment.

In this ebook, we share methods of identifying waste, updated with the latest industry data, and explain how mobile powered workstations remain the fastest, most cost-effective path to eliminating it.



“While the people and buildings are pretty well fixed, processes are fluid.”

# A LOOK INTO TODAY'S WAREHOUSE

According to the 2025 Warehouse/DC Operations Survey (Peerless Research Group / Modern Materials Handling), here is what the median distribution center looks like today:



**222,620**  
sq/ft  
Avg. DC Size



**143**  
Avg. Employees



**9,565**  
Avg. SKUs



**6.3**  
Avg. Annual Turns



**\$425,000**  
Median Equipment Budget



**87%**  
Facilities Using WMS



**80%**  
Plan to Expand in 2026



**~\$22/HR**  
Avg. Warehouse Wage  
(w/ Benefits ~\$30)

Source: 2025 Warehouse/DC Operations Survey, Peerless Research Group / Modern Materials Handling

Warehouse professionals are being asked to do more with less. They carry more SKUs, handle more receipts, fill more individual orders—often with the same headcount as five years ago. The survey tells us that 80% of facilities plan to expand operations in 2026, yet only a fraction plan to add people. The pressure falls squarely on process improvement.

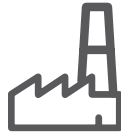
# LEAN SIX SIGMA: THE 8 WASTES

Lean manufacturing—or simply “Lean”—is a systematic approach to eliminating non-value-adding activities (“Muda”) from any process.



## DEFECTS

Rework, scrap & incorrect information



## OVER PRODUCTION

More than needed, or before it's needed



## WAITING

Wasted time waiting for the next step



## TRANSPORTATION

Unnecessary movement of products



## MOTION

Unnecessary movement by people (e.g. walking)



## INVENTORY

Excess products and materials not being processed



## EXTRA PROCESSING

More work or higher quality than required



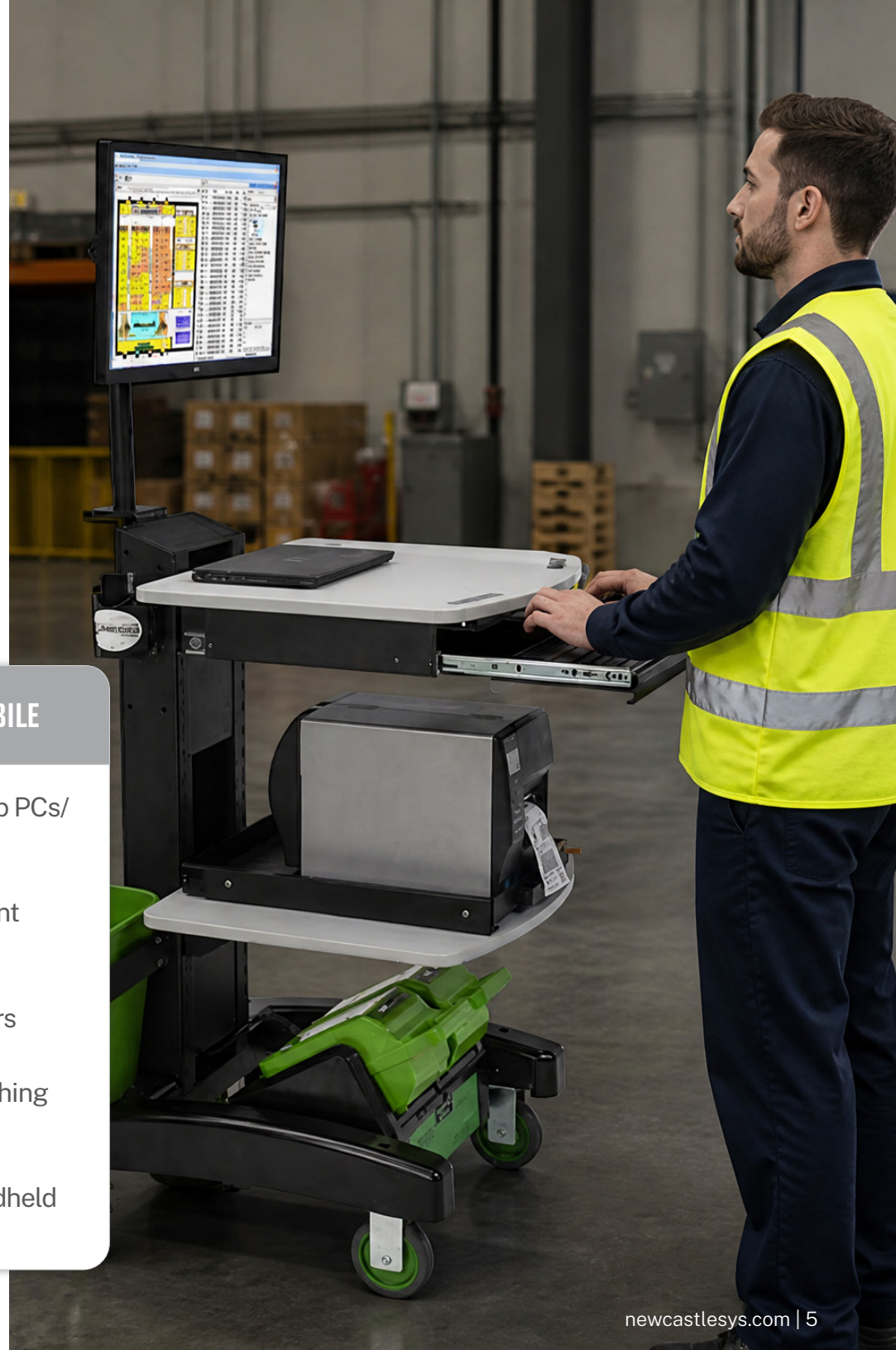
## NON-UTILIZED TALENT

Underusing people's skills and knowledge

In most facilities, waste is visible every single shift. Workers walk to fixed printers, wait for shared computers, travel to stationary scales, and repeat these unproductive loops dozens of times a day. The root cause is almost always the same: limited mobility. Workers are tethered in what should be a dynamic, mobile environment.

# ELIMINATE WASTE WITH MOBILE POWER






Mobile powered workstations solve the core problem: they remove the cord. Workers are freed from the three-foot radius of a wall outlet and can move their full workstation—computer, printer, scanner, scale—to wherever the work is happening.



## PRIMARY WASTE ELIMINATED

- ✓ **Motion** — walking to/from fixed stations
- ✓ **Waiting** — queuing for shared computers/printers
- ✓ **Defects** — errors from working away from the load
- ✓ **Transportation** — unnecessary product movement

## HARDWARE MADE MOBILE

-  Desktop & laptop PCs/ thin clients
-  Label & document printers
-  Barcode scanners
-  Scales and weighing equipment
-  Tablets and handheld devices

# ERGONOMIC WORKSTATIONS WITH **INTEGRATED POWER**

Employees have everything they need at their fingertips as they move across the warehouse floor. They no longer lose time asking a colleague to look something up, or waiting for a shared terminal to become free. Real-time data is always one step away—literally.

Available configurations include carts with fully integrated power packs, powered picking stations, and stand-alone power modules that can be added to non-powered carts already in your facility—protecting your existing infrastructure investment.



# HOW MUCH DO THESE FOOTSTEPS REALLY COST?

Depending on warehouse layout and the number of dock doors, operators can spend 10 to 30 minutes per hour walking to and from a fixed station to enter data, print labels, or weigh product.



**10**  
Minutes  
lost per  
hour

X



**\$30**  
True  
labor cost  
per hour

=

**\$10,400**

Lost per employee  
each year

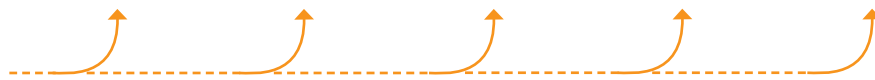
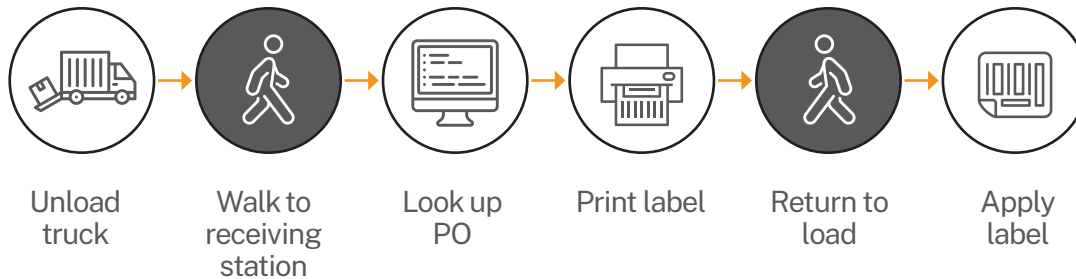


Think about that across your entire operation.

# WORK SMARTER, NOT HARDER

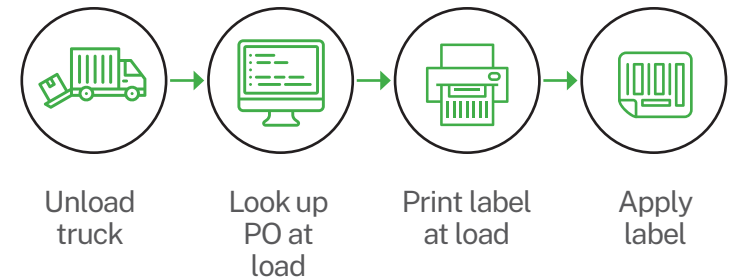
Mobile power eliminates unnecessary steps, movement, and delays.

## TRADITIONAL RECEIVING WORKFLOW



Extra walking. Extra steps. Extra time.

## MOBILE POWER WORKFLOW



Fewer steps. Less walking. More throughput.

# REAL RESULTS: NATIONAL RETAILER

## CHALLENGE

Excessive walking and shared stations were slowing receiving and put-away operations.

## SOLUTION

Deployed mobile powered workstations at receiving to improve cross-docking, labeling and put-away.

## THE IMPACT



**+63%**

Increase in receiving throughput



**-75%**

Decrease in overtime



**\$10K**

Saved per worker each year

“Mobile power gave our team the flexibility to work where the work is. The productivity gains were immediate and measurable.”

# YOUR NEXT STEP

Small changes in how work gets done create big improvements in productivity, accuracy and profit.

- ✓ Assess where waste exists in your operation
- ✓ Identify high-impact workflows
- ✓ Deploy mobile power where it matters most
- ✓ Measure results and scale



**We're here to help you move forward.**

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