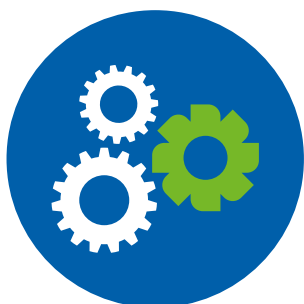




6 Inventory Control Processes Improved by AS/RS Software

Whether you run a distribution and fulfillment operation, or a tooling and spare parts warehouse supporting manufacturing, learn how an automated storage and retrieval system with integrated inventory management software will enhance inventory control across six specific processes.

1 Receiving



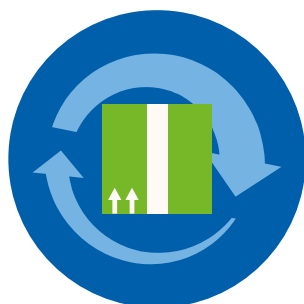
Avoid

repetitive and potentially error-prone data entry.



Reduce

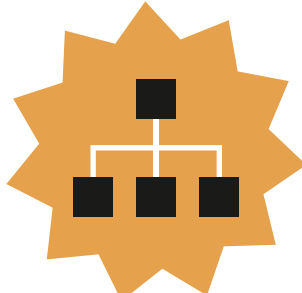
search time through faster and easier accessibility.



Reslot

product automatically as needed to accommodate changes in inventory.

ADDED BONUS

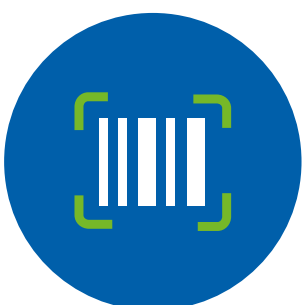


Better Organization

by monitoring the status of every item and organizing stored products by a multitude of criteria.

2 Pick Accuracy

To ensure the right item is picked, AS/RS machines can be equipped with a range of validation equipment:



Barcode Scanning

can be used to verify with the inventory management software that the correct item has been picked, saving time and ensuring accuracy.



Indicator Light

can illuminate the item's location and pick quantity required for even higher accuracy. This cuts the time spent searching for a specific stock keeping unit (SKU) within the storage tray.

ADDED BONUS

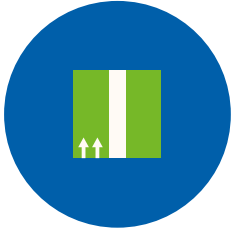


Item Protection

Because AS/RS machines can be fully enclosed, the items they store are kept clean and protected.

3 Track-and-trace

The software maintains a record of



Item



Date



Operator



Order

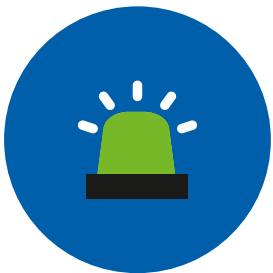
ADDED BONUS



Theft Prevention

An AS/RS machine can be secured, requiring a software-traceable personal login before operation. This allows missing or misplaced goods to be traced back to an individual.

4 Replenishment



Because an AS/RS' inventory management software keeps track of every item within the machine, it can be pre-programmed to send an alert when an item is approaching out-of-stock, triggering a call for replenishment from safety stock stored elsewhere.

5 Inventory Turn



With integrated inventory management software, an AS/RS system ensures items are picked by pre-set standards to optimize inventory turn. This ensures product is used well before its expiration date, or the oldest items are used first by directing first in, first out (FIFO) or last in, first out (LIFO) picking.

6 Cycle Counting



Because an AS/RS with integrated inventory management software tracks every item stored within the machine, managers can closely monitor stock levels in real time, and potentially eliminate physical counts, to reduce the amount of inventory they must have on hand.

Automated Storage and Retrieval Systems Defined



Horizontal Carousels

Consisting of bins mounted on an oval track rotate horizontally to deliver stored items to an operator. These automated storage and retrieval systems save up to 60% of floor space when compared to standard shelving and rack.

Vertical Carousels

Comprised of a series of shelves rotating around a track—similar to a Ferris wheel—these automated storage and retrieval systems quickly deliver stored items to an ergonomically positioned work counter at the operator's command. When compared to static shelving and rack, they save up to 75% of floor space.



Vertical Lift Modules (VLMs)

An enclosed automated storage and retrieval system that incorporates two columns of trays with a central inserter/extractor that automatically locates and retrieves stored trays from both columns, then presents them to the operator at a waist-high pick window. These systems save up to 85% of floor space compared to static shelving and rack.

Vertical Buffer Modules (VBMs)

The newest solution available, the Vertical Buffer Module, is a cost effective tote handling system consisting of an enclosed dense shelving system with a movable mast in the center that stores and retrieves totes, delivering them to an ergonomic turntable picking station or automatically delivering them via outbound conveyor.

