



# HOW MANUFACTURING COMPANIES ARE INCREASING THROUGHPUT WITHOUT EXPANDING FACILITIES

Manufacturing organizations are facing increasing pressure to produce more output with fewer resources. Rising labor costs, facility constraints, supply chain variability, & customer delivery expectations are forcing manufacturing leaders to rethink operational efficiency.

One of the most overlooked opportunities for improving throughput & reducing operational risk is **material handling optimization**. Manufacturers that reevaluate their **forklift fleet, material flow, warehouse layout, & space utilization** often unlock significant productivity gains without expanding their footprint.

This overview explores:

- ▶ Key challenges facing manufacturing operations
- ▶ Where productivity losses occur
- ▶ How leading manufacturers are improving throughput with forklifts & material handling solutions
- ▶ Real-world example of operational improvement
- ▶ Opportunities for manufacturing leaders

## INDUSTRY CHALLENGES FACING MANUFACTURING LEADERS

Manufacturing operations today are experiencing several common pressures:

### 1. Increased Production Demands

Customers expect shorter lead times & more flexible production schedules, increasing the need for efficient **forklift operations & material handling systems**.

### 2. Labor Shortages

Finding & retaining skilled labor continues to be one of the most significant operational challenges, driving demand for **efficient lift trucks & material handling solutions**.

### 3. Space Constraints

Many manufacturing facilities are operating at or near capacity, limiting growth potential & increasing the importance of **optimized warehouse layouts**.

### 4. Rising Operational Costs

Escalating expenses across fuel, maintenance, equipment, & labor are putting pressure on margins, forcing leaders to find more efficient ways to operate without sacrificing productivity.



## WHERE PRODUCTIVITY LOSSES OCCUR

In many manufacturing environments, productivity losses occur in:

- ▶ Material movement between production areas due to inefficient **forklift routing & workflows**
- ▶ Bottlenecks in staging & storage areas caused by poor **warehouse layout & rack design**
- ▶ Downtime due to equipment breakdowns & frequent **forklift maintenance issues**
- ▶ Inefficient **lift truck utilization & fleet management**
- ▶ Manual material handling processes that could be optimized with **electric forklifts**.

These inefficiencies often go unnoticed because they develop gradually over time.



## INDUSTRY EXAMPLE

A Midwest manufacturing company producing industrial components experienced:

- ▶ Congested production areas
- ▶ Delays in material movement
- ▶ Limited storage capacity
- ▶ Increasing maintenance costs

Leadership initially considered expanding the facility. Instead, they evaluated their material handling strategy.

### Changes included:

- ▶ Narrower aisle configuration
- ▶ Improved staging layout
- ▶ Standardized material flow
- ▶ Investing in smarter lift trucks that are more durable & dependable

### Results:

- ▶ 22% increase in throughput
- ▶ 30-40% reduction in maintenance costs
- ▶ Reduced congestion
- ▶ Improved safety
- ▶ No facility expansion required

## HOW LEADING MANUFACTURERS ARE RESPONDING

Forward-thinking manufacturers are improving performance by:

- ▶ Optimizing **material flow & forklift travel paths**
- ▶ Updating **forklift fleets with electric & high-efficiency lift trucks**
- ▶ Improving **warehouse space utilization**

- ▶ Implementing standardized workflows
- ▶ Reducing manual handling through **automation & advanced material handling equipment**

These improvements often generate measurable operational benefits within months.

## BUSINESS IMPACT

Manufacturers implementing these strategies often experience:

- ▶ Increased throughput
- ▶ Improved labor productivity
- ▶ Reduced operational risk
- ▶ Reduced maintenance costs
- ▶ Increased facility capacity

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

Manufacturing leaders should consider:

- ▶ Evaluating **material flow & forklift efficiency**
- ▶ Reviewing **warehouse space utilization & layout**
- ▶ Assessing **forklift fleet performance & maintenance costs**
- ▶ Identifying operational bottlenecks in material handling

These steps can unlock significant productivity improvements.

Many manufacturing leaders are evaluating how **forklift strategy & material handling solutions** impact productivity and capacity.



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