



Will automation pay off for your warehouse?

Ask yourself these questions to determine if full or partial automation is the way forward to increase your profits and ease operations in your warehouse.

1. Are your current conditions sustainable?



If things are good as they are, if your profits are solid, if attracting labor and keeping labor costs are at the perfect equilibrium, and you see no need to scale your business in the next decade, then there is no need to invest in automation equipment. If labor is an issue, and if you are planning to scale your business, automation is for you.



Each business case is unique, and of course you need a certain throughput to justify the investment. But automation can be everything from a warehouse “running in total darkness” to a few AMRs or RGVs supporting your staff, so even smaller warehouses benefit from automation.

2. Do you handle enough goods to qualify for automation?

3. Where are your bottlenecks?



Most warehouses face bottlenecks. It can be the flow of goods that keeps you from meeting peak demands with your current labor force, it can be pick rates, error rates, and down time on specific equipment that slows your productivity, or it can be the total cost of labor including wages, benefits, training, and turnover that minimizes your profits.

Taking a bit of time to analyze which bottlenecks have the biggest impact on your production provides you with a solid foundation to determine whether you are looking for automation from A to Z or if automation from B to C will do the trick.

To analyze this requires data and insights into your warehouse. You have the insight, but not everyone has all the right data. We are happy to help you collect and analyze the data needed.



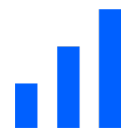
Is it the picking, packing, and sorting? Is it the storage and retrieval? Or is it that one specific good that causes trouble every time? Automation is great at eliminating repetitive tasks that put a toll on your labor, but sometimes the most obvious idea is not the most profitable.

A Layer Picker, a full downstream solution and an Automated Storage and Retrieval System could solve all your problems, but what if all you need is AMRs to bring goods faster to your manned picking stations.

In a world where almost everything is possible but your budget is limited, you need get to the root cause of the problem, take the complexity into account and analyze cause and effect – and ROI – of all possible solutions.

4. What automation opportunities can eliminate your bottlenecks?

5. How do you make sure to invest in a scalable solution?



Whether you go for the full warehouse or just automate a single process, scalability is the key to your long-term success.

To fully analyze the impact and cost-benefit of different automation solutions you need to consider things like production data, flow of goods, manual handling procedures, and the physical layout of your warehouse. You also need to consider your strategic goals for the next 5-10 years. Sometimes you get a far better ROI by taking some cost up front, if you can predict three steps ahead.



We know that buying and implementing any automation solution from any vendor and implementing it tomorrow can seem simple. And you will probably see some immediate benefits. However, if you are looking for a scalable solution to improve your long-term business, you need a reliable partner to help you analyze your data from inbound to outbound, provide suggestions for solutions that match your future needs, and make sure you do not overlook adjacent equipment or systems needed for harvesting the full benefits.

And to gain full advantage of your solution, you also need a partner that is there for you to provide support and customer service throughout the full life-cycle of your automation equipment.

At Körber, we are happy to be that partner.

6. How do you predict three steps ahead and reduce complexity?

[Learn even more](#)

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Let's talk. We'll find the answer.

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