

WAREHOUSE EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

Planning a new facility, a reconfiguration, or a move? This covers the five equipment categories most projects need to account for — so nothing gets missed until it's expensive to fix. Use it as a planning tool, not a purchase order. Not every project needs every line.

FACILITY / SITE	PREPARED BY	DATE	TARGET IN-SERVICE
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01 Racking & Storage

Confirm capacity before you confirm quantity

HAVE	NEED	N/A	ITEM	QTY	SPEC / NOTES
☐	☐	☐	Selective pallet rack Primary storage system — record upright height, depth, beam length		
☐	☐	☐	Wire decking Required by most sprinkler/fire codes over solid shelves		
☐	☐	☐	Row spacers & column protectors		
☐	☐	☐	Capacity placards One per configuration — not one per building		
☐	☐	☐	High-density rack Push-back, drive-in, or pallet flow — if density needs exceed selective		
☐	☐	☐	Cantilever rack Long or irregular loads: pipe, lumber, steel, sheet goods		
☐	☐	☐	Mezzanine or shelving Small-parts pick modules, returns, staging		
☐	☐	☐	Rack permits & engineering Seismic zone, AHJ review, stamped drawings		

02 Material Handling Equipment

Size to the aisle, not the catalogue

HAVE	NEED	N/A	ITEM	QTY	SPEC / NOTES
☐	☐	☐	Forklifts Match to aisle width and top beam height — confirm both before ordering rack		
☐	☐	☐	Pallet jacks Manual and/or electric		
☐	☐	☐	Order pickers Pick-module or high-bay access		
☐	☐	☐	Conveyor or sortation If throughput requires		
☐	☐	☐	Battery charging stations Sized and ventilated for the electric fleet		
☐	☐	☐	Pallets Standard sizes matched to rack beam span		

03 Safety & Compliance

The cheapest line items and the most expensive to skip

HAVE	NEED	N/A	ITEM	QTY	SPEC / NOTES
☐	☐	☐	Rack guarding & column protectors Every upright in forklift traffic — end-of-aisle first		.....
☐	☐	☐	Aisle striping & pedestrian walkways		.....
☐	☐	☐	Sprinkler coverage verified for rack height In-rack sprinklers may be required above certain heights		.....
☐	☐	☐	Fire extinguishers & egress paths		.....
☐	☐	☐	Netting or containment High-value, fragile, or overhead-pick SKUs		.....
☐	☐	☐	Documented rack inspection program Monthly visual, annual documented — assign an owner		.....
☐	☐	☐	Capacity labeling on every rack section OSHA-compliant, legible from the floor		.....
☐	☐	☐	Damage repair / replace protocol Who tags it, who offloads it, who fixes it		.....

04 Dock Equipment

Match to trailer traffic, not to door count

HAVE	NEED	N/A	ITEM	QTY	SPEC / NOTES
☐	☐	☐	Dock levelers Sized to trailer bed height range		.....
☐	☐	☐	Dock seals or shelters Climate control and energy cost		.....
☐	☐	☐	Vehicle restraints & wheel chocks		.....
☐	☐	☐	Dock lighting & traffic signal lights		.....
☐	☐	☐	Overhead doors Sized to trailer height		.....

05 Facility & Infrastructure

The constraints that decide everything above

HAVE	NEED	N/A	ITEM	QTY	SPEC / NOTES
☐	☐	☐	Clear height measured Deck to lowest obstruction — sprinkler, joist, light, duct		.....
☐	☐	☐	Floor slab thickness & PSI confirmed Anchoring and point loads depend on it		.....
☐	☐	☐	Column grid & obstructions mapped		.....
☐	☐	☐	Lighting layout matched to final aisles Re-racking without re-lighting is a common miss		.....
☐	☐	☐	Power & data drops for charging, WMS, scanners		.....
☐	☐	☐	Existing equipment to remove, resell, or relocate Often offsets a meaningful share of project cost		.....

SIX QUESTIONS TO ANSWER BEFORE YOU BUY

- 1 · WHAT IS THE REAL CLEAR HEIGHT?

Measure deck to the **lowest** obstruction, not to the roof. Sprinklers, joists, lights and duct runs set your top beam. This single number decides how much rack fits.
- 2 · WHAT WILL THE FORKLIFT ACTUALLY BE?

Aisle width and lift height are set by the truck. Order rack before you settle the truck and you can end up with aisles you cannot work.
- 3 · NEW, USED, OR HYBRID?

Used rack typically ships in days and runs well below new; new rack runs 8+ weeks lead time. Most projects are best served by a mix — new where capacity is critical, used where it is not.
- 4 · DOES IT NEED A PERMIT?

Many jurisdictions require stamped drawings and a permit for storage racks above a height threshold, and seismic zones add engineering. Confirm with the AHJ early — it is a schedule item, not a formality.
- 5 · WHAT HAPPENS TO THE OLD EQUIPMENT?

Teardown, buy-back and resale can offset a real share of project cost. Decide before demolition starts, not after.
- 6 · WHO OWNS INSPECTION AFTER GO-LIVE?

Damaged uprights are the most common serious rack failure and the easiest to catch. Name the person and the cadence on day one.

QUICK REFERENCE — MATCHING STORAGE TYPE TO NEED

IF YOU NEED...	CONSIDER	TRADE-OFF
Direct access to every pallet	Selective pallet rack	Lowest density, highest flexibility
More pallets in the same footprint	Push-back or drive-in	Higher density, LIFO access, slower picks
Strict date rotation (FIFO)	Pallet flow	Highest cost per position
Long or irregular loads	Cantilever rack	Purpose-built; not for palletized goods
Small parts and pick modules	Shelving or mezzanine	Adds usable square footage without building
Damaged uprights back in service	Repair in place	Far cheaper and faster than replacement

OPEN QUESTIONS FOR YOUR AMH ASSESSMENT

NOT SURE WHAT YOUR PROJECT ACTUALLY NEEDS?

A free assessment gets you a real equipment list scoped to your facility — your ceiling height, aisle widths, throughput and budget. Not a generic checklist.

REQUEST A FREE ASSESSMENT

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