

Warehouse Automation 101

As the supply chain world continues evolving, it will be paramount to equip your operations with the latest technology developments in order to meet your labor challenges, customer demands and organizational goals. There are several types of warehouse automation systems now in existence, but each vary greatly in scope, complexity and cost.

To help bring clarity to these emerging technology solutions, we've put together this overview for your continued education.

Traditional Warehouse Automation Systems

How it works:

Sortation systems identify items on a conveyor system and divert the products or packages to specific destinations. These systems are often used to route or sort items and packages to carrier-specific cages or doors.

Types:

Automated sortation and conveyors



Common uses:

Widely used, transportation of inventory without labor, simple to install and operate, often combined with other forms of automation.

Pick/Put Systems

How it works:

Pick-to-light systems employ alphanumeric displays and buttons at storage locations to guide employees in light-aided manual picking, putting and sorting of packages or products. Voice-picking systems augment the normal visual prompts with audible voice prompts and capture activity via voice responses.

Types:

Pick to light, put to light, voice picking



Common uses:

Voice, high-volume case picking, pick and put to light, small parts high volume and items that are difficult to identify.

Goods-to-person Systems

How it works:

Goods-to-person systems store products within the system and automatically transport the goods directly to the operator as needed for picking thus eliminating the travel time.

Types:

ASRS, carousel, conveyors, vertical lifts



Common uses:

E-commerce fulfillment, high-volume single piece picking and tight labor conditions.

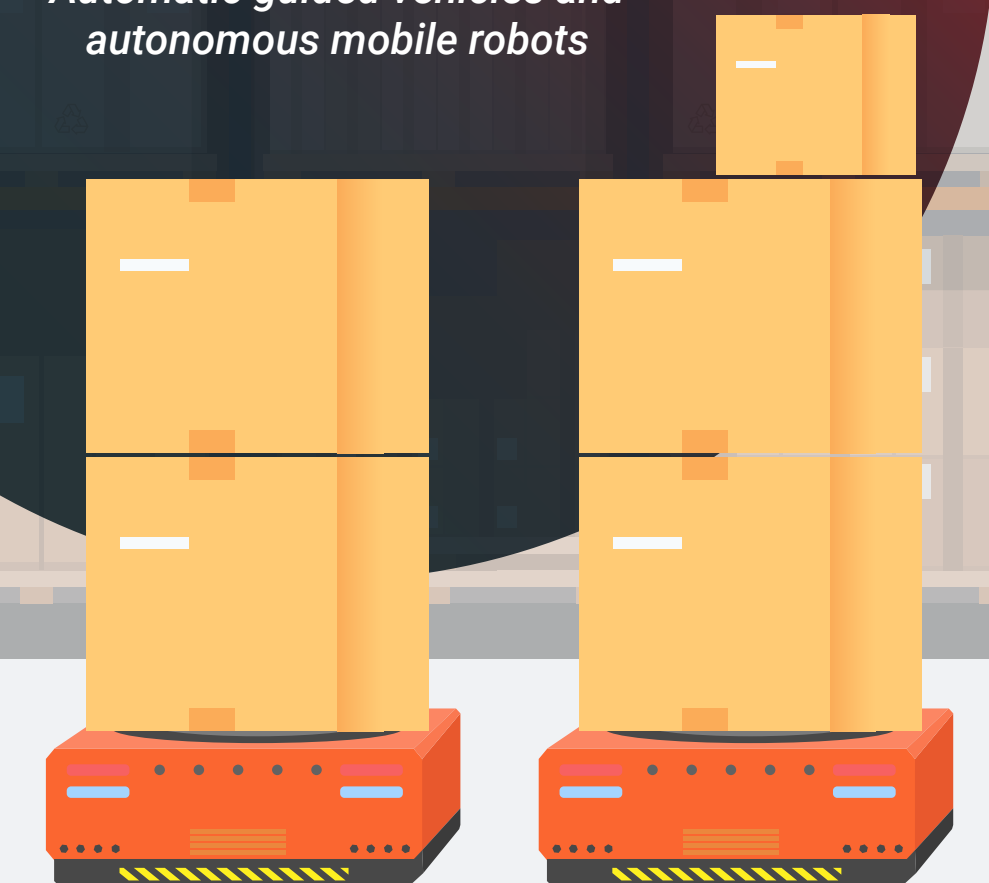
Robot Systems

How it works:

Warehouse robots are used either for transporting goods — often automated lift trucks to heavy load carriers — or to assist in picking, packing, sorting and storing goods. These robots can perform tasks in an automated manner or collaboratively work with existing warehouse material handlers.

Types:

Automatic guided vehicles and autonomous mobile robots



Common uses:

Early technology adopters, 3PLs needing flexibility, organizations needing automation without significant infrastructure changes and heavy seasonality situations.

Speak to a warehouse automation expert today >>>>