



Warehouse Automation for Your Brownfield Facility: A Checklist

Making the move to automation while staying in your current brownfield warehouse facility demands a strategic and systematic approach. This checklist goes over the critical steps that you need to accomplish to ensure your automation strategy is accomplished with precision and delivers the intended benefits. By adhering to this checklist of best practices, you can anticipate a significant return on investment (ROI) and evade common obstacles that can impede progress.

Lay the Groundwork:

- Form a multidisciplinary team encompassing IT, operations, engineering, and finance to align goals.
- Conduct a workforce survey to gauge technology readiness and pinpoint training requirements.
- Collaborate with vendors to plan necessary facility and infrastructure modifications.
- Create a comprehensive project plan with a clear timeline and provisions for unforeseen delays.

Choose the Right Technology Partners:

- Issue an RFP to identify potential vendors that align with your automation goals.
- Conduct thorough vetting of vendors focusing on their experience, customer satisfaction, and financial health.
- Opt for technology partners that offer flexible, customizable solutions that can grow with you.
- Ensure the selected solutions can integrate seamlessly with your current systems.
- Partner with vendors who will act as strategic advisors throughout the process.

Get Buy-In Across Your Organization:

- Communicate your business case and projected ROI via presentations and interactive workshops.
- Highlight the empowerment and strategic value addition for employees through automation.

- Appoint and support change champions at various organizational tiers.
- Recognize and communicate early wins in automation to encourage confidence and acceptance.

Execute a Phased Rollout:

- Initiate a pilot project in a high-impact area to test the technology's effectiveness.
- Solicit and utilize feedback during pilot phases to refine processes and training.
- Expand automation incrementally, ensuring each phase integrates smoothly before moving to the next.
- Maintain semi-manual operations initially to guarantee a seamless full integration later.
- Continue to refine and iterate post-deployment for ongoing optimization.

Measure Progress and Results:

- Establish and follow key performance indicators that reflect financial and operational targets.
- Assess automated versus manual work rates, accuracy, equipment effectiveness, and overall productivity.
- Conduct regular employee surveys to capture feedback on new technology interfaces.
- Calculate and communicate tangible cost savings, efficiency improvements, and other benefits.
- Share success stories and achievements across the organization to foster a culture of continuous improvement.

The transition to warehouse automation from manual operations in your brownfield facility requires not just technological upgrades but a change in mindset and culture. Implementing these best practices involves meticulous planning, partnership selection, organizational readiness, phased implementation, and ongoing measurement of results. When these elements are effectively managed, the promise of warehouse automation can be fully realized, resulting in enhanced efficiency, productivity, and profitability.

Locus Robotics is a leader in both brownfield and greenfield warehouse automation with our autonomous mobile robots (AMRs). Contact us to see how we can help you check off every item on your warehouse automation checklist.