THISTLE SYSTEMS MAX THE CUBE™

The Essential Guide to Downsizing Your Storage Requirements and Maximising Production Space

Your Guide to Downsizing Your Storage Requirements and Maximising Production Space

Ensuring your business operations are operating at peak performance has always been a key objective for every business. However, in light of the recent economic challenges, companies are now looking at every opportunity to minimise their operating costs whilst maximising productivity and efficiency.

Our Max the Cube approach has enabled hundreds of companies across the UK to maximise their capacity whilst dramatically reducing their operational costs.

In this Executive Report, we look at the potential opportunities to downsize your operations into a smaller floor space, whilst maximising storage capacity and storage space.

1. Maximise Available Height

Mezzanine floors, floor overs and two tier shelving systems can enable you to capitalise on the full height of a building.

These highly flexible solutions have helped companies to maximise production space, create additional office space or dramatically increase storage capacity.

And as mezzanines, floor overs and two tiers are modular in design, they can be easily deconstructed, should you need to move to larger premises in the future.

However, these structures will require building warrants and therefore need to be carefully designed by a company which understands the specific requirements and potential dispensation as stipulated by local authorities in Scotland.

These can not only vary from area to area but differ greatly from the more relaxed approach to building regulations in England.

2. Maximise High Density Solutions

The challenge in any storage solution is to maximise the capacity in the minimum floor space whilst providing the required levels of accessibility.

Standard shelving and racking are ideal for busy storage areas where it is vital to be able to access all products, quickly and easily. The compromise is that this approach requires significant amounts of floor space to be dedicated to aisles – which can be significant in the case of racking which will need to accommodate fork lift trucks.

By utilising high density storage solutions such as push back racking, mobile shelving and racking, and narrow aisle racking, you have the opportunity to achieve the same level of capacity within a smaller footprint or increase the capacity within the same floor space.

3. Maximise Outside Space

Depending on the materials being stored, there may be the opportunity to use external storage solutions such as cantilever racking or specialist galvanised racking with the option of corrugated roofing to provide shelter from the elements.

Security can be enhanced through the use of mesh caging with lockable sliding doors which will also provide forklift access.

Containers can also be kitted out to optimise storage units or indeed provide additional workspace.

4. Minimise Storage on Floor

Storing materials and products on the floor is a highly inefficient use of floor space. However, many companies believe it's the only option for larger and heavy items – particularly in the offshore and engineering markets.

Racking can be specified with heavy duty beams and chipboard panels or timber supports to accommodate large and heavy items.

Heavy duty pull out shelving systems can also be incorporated to accommodate heavy items or tooling whilst providing picking access whether manually or an overhead crane.

Cantilever racking or vertical racking can be used to store longer items or pipes, freeing up valuable floor space which can be dedicated to production space.

5. Minimise Floor Space Required By Small Parts

The storage of small parts can often prove to be a bit of a challenge for many companies as the physical storage space far outweighs the actual products being stored.

This is not only an extremely inefficient use of floor space but also causes major issues in terms of picking times, stock taking, stock loss and general operations.

The capacity and the efficiency can be transformed by using high density drawer cabinets with partitions designed to suit the components being stored. These can also be incorporated into workbenches to add additional efficiency of space and work.

Small parts containers can also be used on shelving to organise products more effectively and efficiently to maximise the capacity and space.

The 5S principles of 'sort', 'set in order', 'straighten', 'shine' and 'sustain' have never been more applicable in storage than when it comes to managing small parts as it can be used to create clean, efficient and effective workspaces which are designed to maximise performance.

By understanding the products and components being stored and designing solutions to fit the purpose, you can achieve significant savings both in terms of physical costs and efficiency.

For example in one project, we were able to develop a solution where the client was able to decant the entire contents from 3 existing bays of shelving into two drawer units measuring just 1032mm wide by 725mm deep.

This was achieved by a thorough understanding of the goods being stored and their usage, which lead to us designing a system featuring 18 drawers at 50mm deep and 9 drawers at 100mm deep.

6. Minimise Dead Spaces

One of the key principles of the Max the Cube approach is to maximise the utilisation of the cubic space in any environment be it a warehouse or office space.

The challenge is to identify, minimise and eradicate any air space or under-utilised space. In racking or shelving this could be space between the top of the products being stored and the underside of the shelf or beam.

Similarly, spaces between pallets or items being stored or indeed space to the back of the shelving are considered as Dead Space by the Max the Cube philosophy.

By optimising these areas by moving beam heights, designing shelving depths to suit products and utilising end panels with items such as louvre panels or hangers can maximise the available space and therefore minimise the overall floor space required

7. Maximise Production Space

The aim for most companies is to maximise the profitability per square metre of floor space which means dedicating as much area as possible to production and productivity.

However, with health and safety at the very foundation of the Max the Cube approach, we have developed techniques to maximise every millimetre of production.

For example, by utilising secure mesh panels to prevent products from falling off the back of racking and long span shelving, we can safely locate storage spaces directly adjacent to machines and production areas.

Conclusions

The challenge to downsize operations whilst maximising productivity and minimising costs has never been greater.

Our Max the Cube approach to designing and delivering storage solutions and interior fit outs enables companies to transform their operations and enjoy a superb return on investment.

By approaching the business from a holistic viewpoint and understanding the products being stored, the day to day demands and the specific challenges being faced, we can deliver unrivalled results.

To discover how we could Maximise Your Cube and dramatically reduce your operational costs, contact us now on 01236 453888.