

4 TIPS TO SOLVING CHALLENGES WITH LEAN MANAGEMENT

Economic slowdowns can put a tremendous strain on your business's people, processes and supply chains. However, operations can mitigate some of these factors by adopting lean management principles and instilling a culture of continuous improvement. Managers should consider implementing the following steps to prepare for the future:



GATHER AND ANALYZE DATA

Through a proven process of gathering data via visualization, organization and standardization, lean management can help operations gain visibility into the current state of an operation. Managers should regularly evaluate the data collected from their operation to evaluate and adapt warehouse operations accordingly.



VISUALIZE IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lean management methods are based on the philosophies of achieving the elimination of all waste in pursuit of the most efficient methods. This process begins with visualization. Visualization aims to make a situation easily understood merely by looking at it and can be accomplished throughout a facility with data displays, label and location markings and tool displays. Through visualization, an operation can share information, communicate standards and identify defects quickly.



EMPOWER YOUR EMPLOYEES

Lean management teaches workers to spot inefficiencies, errors or potential defects by providing them with practical tools to share their ideas and develop impactful, long-term solutions. By giving employees the opportunity to implement change throughout the organization, employees are more engaged, which results in higher morale and workforce retention.



ESTABLISH STANDARDIZED WORK PROCESSES

Standardized work creates clearly defined employee expectations and ensures consistency of labor and materials. By establishing standardized work processes, organizations can help eliminate or reduce non-value-added steps, resulting in higher operational effectiveness.

To learn more about what Raymond is doing to ensure warehouse, distribution and supply chain operations stay efficient and productive, visit www.raymondcorp.com.

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