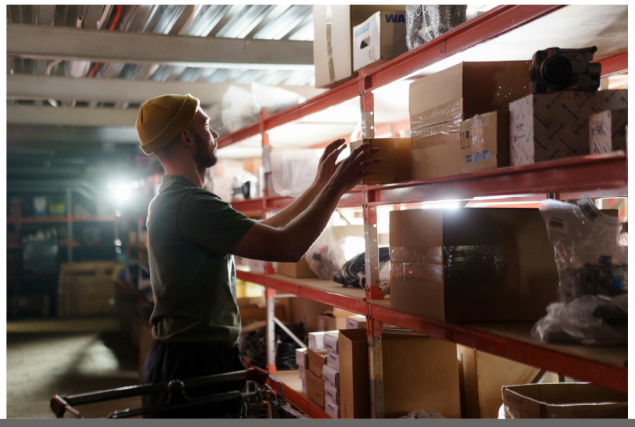
ALPINE
Supply Chain Solutions

Saint-Gobain

Alpine Assists Saint-Gobain in Storage Type Analysis and Optimization

1 Introduction

A global leader in sustainable building materials, Saint-Gobain manufactures and distributes high-performance solutions across construction, mobility, and industrial markets. Operating in 70+ countries with over 170,000 employees, Saint-Gobain emphasizes innovation, efficiency, and sustainability in all operations. When the company recognized issues that they were having within their warehouse, including operational efficiencies and storage misalignment, they contacted Alpine Supply Chain Solutions for assistance.



2 Challenge

This company is currently facing significant challenges due to an oversized warehouse, operational inefficiencies, and storage misalignment. The oversized warehouse has created excess space, leading to underutilization and elevated operational costs, which in turn has increased facility management expenses and introduced inefficiencies. Additionally, the large facility size contributes to operational inefficiencies, as it results in extended travel times within the warehouse and higher labor costs, slowing order processing and reducing overall productivity. Compounding these issues, the storage configurations do not align with SKU demands, resulting in inefficient use of space and limited flexibility for future growth. Collectively, these challenges are driving up costs and hindering the company's ability to operate efficiently and scale effectively.

3 Solution

Upon elevating Saint-Gobain's operations, Alpine presented three automation options tailored to their needs. The OPEX Perfect Pick, a goods-to-person system, offered a 20% productivity boost by reducing unnecessary travel and manual handling. Gebhardt Systems introduced conveyors and Automated Storage and Retrieval Systems (AS/RS) for high efficiency and accuracy, ideal for managing high volumes with precision. Lastly, Alpine's ROI-focused analysis evaluated the cost-effectiveness and projected labor savings of each option, enabling Saint-Gobain to choose an automation path that aligned with its budget and operational goals, ensuring a balance between immediate improvements and long-term value.

4 Implementation

Alpine played a crucial role in optimizing Saint-Gobain's warehouse operations through a series of strategic assessments and recommendations. Starting with a comprehensive assessment, Alpine evaluated the company's inbound and outbound flow, item master data, inventory levels, and labor metrics. This deep dive helped identify bottlenecks in Saint-Gobain's workflows and highlighted areas where inventory and labor were being underutilized or misaligned with demand. By analyzing inbound and outbound flow, Alpine was able to recommend adjustments that streamlined the movement of goods, ultimately improving order fulfillment speed and reducing labor costs. Additionally, the insights from item master and inventory data analysis enabled Saint-Gobain to optimize its stock-keeping practices, better aligning inventory levels with demand and ensuring accurate and efficient order processing.

Following this assessment, Alpine conducted a Storage Type Analysis (STA) to determine the most effective storage configurations. By evaluating different options for bin shelving, case flow, and racking configurations, Alpine helped Saint-Gobain identify the optimal layout that would enhance storage density and improve accessibility. This storage reconfiguration allowed the company to better utilize its space and reduce the travel time within the warehouse, boosting productivity and making the facility more adaptable to changes in demand.

5 Results

With Alpine's guidance, Saint-Gobain achieved a significant transformation in its warehouse operations, resulting in streamlined processes, cost savings, and enhanced efficiency. By consolidating operations within a right-sized space, Alpine helped Saint-Gobain reduce logistical complexities, improve workflow, and optimize inventory tracking. This consolidation also reduced unnecessary labor, with fewer inventory moves and quicker access to high-frequency SKUs, ultimately increasing throughput. The result was not only a leaner operation but also a faster and more efficient one.

Additionally, Alpine's solutions led to considerable cost savings. By minimizing reliance on external storage and third-party logistics, Saint-Gobain lowered its operational expenses. Efficiency gains from optimized picking layouts and reduced travel times further cut down on labor costs, boosting productivity. This refined setup also improved order accuracy, reducing errors and enhancing customer satisfaction. The newly configured warehouse layout is flexible enough to adapt to future changes in inventory or demand, providing Saint-Gobain with a scalable and sustainable solution. Positioned for growth, the company is now better equipped to stay competitive in a rapidly evolving market landscape.

5 Conclusion

Alpine Supply Chain Solutions provided Saint-Gobain with a comprehensive approach to transforming its warehouse operations, addressing each of the core challenges the company faced. From evaluating and realigning workflows to optimizing storage configurations and implementing automation options, Alpine's strategic solutions enabled Saint-Gobain to streamline its operations significantly. These improvements have translated into reduced logistical complexities, better space utilization, and faster order fulfillment—core enhancements that have strengthened Saint-Gobain's ability to operate efficiently and cost-effectively.

By cutting down on labor-intensive tasks, reducing reliance on third-party logistics, and implementing flexible storage solutions, Saint-Gobain achieved substantial cost savings and a more adaptable, future-proof facility. The company is now well-positioned to scale as inventory demands shift, with a modernized operation capable of sustaining long-term growth. Ultimately, Alpine's solutions have empowered Saint-Gobain to enhance customer satisfaction, maintain high productivity, and sustain a competitive edge in the global market, aligning with its commitment to innovation, efficiency, and sustainability.