



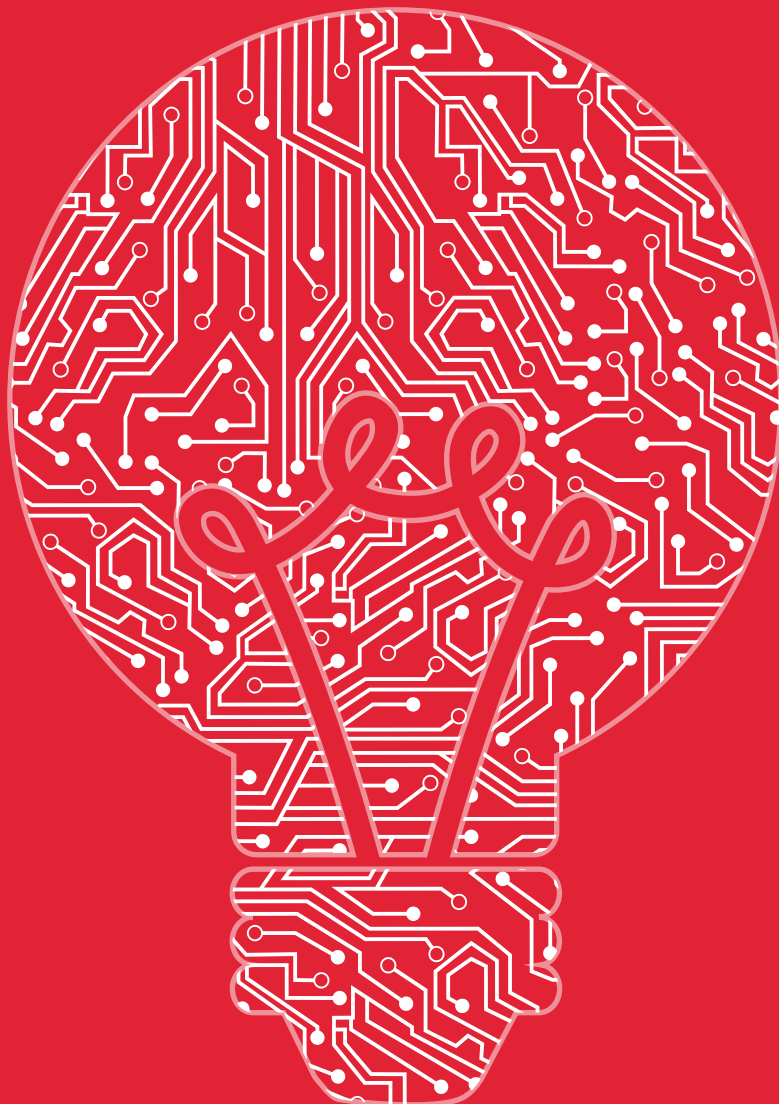
**pick to light**

Your efficiency, our guiding light

# How Batch picking improves order preparation

Your efficiency, our guiding light.

Igor Umerez, Managing Director



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## Introduction by the autor

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**Warehouse picking is one of the most important phases in order preparation:** it involves picking the specific items of an order and then preparing them for shipment.

It is a process that requires **both high-tech equipment and optimal organization of the manual work** to ensure accuracy in the preparation and fulfillment of orders. Indeed, any inefficiency in this phase translates into a slowdown of the entire order preparation process.

For this reason, technologies and picking solutions aimed at increasing warehouse productivity have developed over time. **The choice of the order preparation method is, in fact, strategic** both for proper warehouse management and for company performance.

Among the systems developed for the picking phase, **batch picking is one of the most efficient.** Let's take a look at this picking strategy, exploring the technologies and sectors in which this method is more successful.

# What is batch picking and how does it work?

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Batch picking is one of the person-to-goods methods by which items are picked for order preparation. In this method, **the operator picks multiple items of the same type at the same time (batches) and then sorts them into the different orders in Put To Walls.**

Once finished, the batch of orders moves to another storage area where additional items will be picked, until the orders are complete. The goal of batch picking is to **reduce the number of trips** personnel must make to the picking areas, **thus increasing operational efficiency.**



# What are the main characteristics?

The batch picking method can be implemented with different levels of automation, depending on the type of warehouse.

Batch picking can generally be divided into **4 phases:**

**“ The more efficient batch picking will be with a margin of error close to zero**



## **A picking list is generated,**

that is, a document with the items to be shipped, the quantities for each item, and their storage position in the warehouse. The picking list may be on paper, in smaller warehouses, but more often this operation is managed digitally.



## **Orders are grouped**

– automatically and in the most efficient way if there is an order management system or WMS – so as to include the same items for each batch of orders.



## **The picking lists, ordered according to the batch picking route suggested by the WMS, are assigned to the picking personnel.**

If the warehouse does not have an automatic management system, it is also necessary to determine the recommended route.



## **The warehouse operator, following the picking list, picks the items**

according to the batch picking route, until completing the batch of orders assigned to them, and at that point, is passed to the personnel in charge of sorting items in Put To Wall for consolidation of orders.



# What technologies are needed to implement the batch picking method?

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To efficiently implement batch picking, ad hoc software can be used to reduce the distances to be covered and the repetition of movements.

Warehouse management systems (WMS) are modular solutions for managing flows in warehouses which, by interfacing with other devices, can also simplify batch picking functions.



# What technologies are needed to implement the batch picking method?

## Picking station

Steel structures with shelves for containers, which can be integrated in traditional warehouses with manual transport or in modern warehouses with automated transport. These are the structures on which the pick to light device works best.



## Put To Wall

The system with a display that guides the operator to the positions in which to put the items of each order. For each item, the display visually indicates the container and quantity of each SKU to be inserted. Thanks to the WMS, the Put to Light system can also be implemented for the batch picking method.



## Picking Carts

Picking Carts are manoeuvrable carts with pivoting wheels. They are equipped with shelves for containers and Put to Light displays for the easy identification of the container in which the picked item must be placed. Picking Carts for batch picking may be used in warehouses as an alternative to Put To Wall.

# When it is advantageous to implement the batch picking method?

The batch picking method is particularly effective and optimized when:



The company has many orders to process – Order preparation and retrieval times for the items involved are reduced, which results in less warehouse congestion.



Orders have just a few and homogeneous SKUs – In this way the picking and sorting process can be carried out together and simultaneously, with a further reduction of picking errors.

## The advantages of batch picking in order preparation are therefore:



Increased productivity



Reduction for errors in orders near to zero



Reduction of the number of trips



Reduction of labor and related costs



Reduction of fatigue



## Which sectors use batch picking the most?

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Batch picking, as seen above, offers undisputable advantages for the management of warehouses where order preparation speed and accuracy must be at the highest levels.

This makes it the preferred picking strategy for e-commerce – regardless of the sector –

To learn more about how to optimize warehouse picking operations, download our Manual, a useful free guide to maximize the efficiency of one of the most strategic phases in order management and fulfillment.



**600% increase in productivity**

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