



In many warehouse environments, inefficiencies arise not from a lack of space or technology, but from a lack of structure or structure lost over time.

Functional areas merge, processes overlap, and originally clear zones lose their definition. This creates unnecessary routes, longer search times and avoidable friction in the material flow.

This mini-guide shows how warehouse structures can be clearly reorganised using simple, practical measures – without construction work or complex system changes.

01

How structure is lost in the warehouse

Warehouses rarely develop according to plan, but over time. New requirements, additional products or short-term adjustments mean that existing structures gradually overlap.

Typical effects:

- ▶ Zones become functionally mixed
- ▶ Routes evolve historically rather than logically
- ▶ Areas lose their clear purpose
- ▶ Processes rely on individual knowledge rather than a systematic approach

The problem is rarely visible – but clearly felt in day-to-day operations.

02

The central functional zones in the warehouse

Regardless of size or sector, efficient warehouse structures are based on a small number of core **functional areas**:

- ▶ **Goods receipt** – receipt, inspection and initial allocation
- ▶ **Buffer/intermediate storage** – temporary provision and balancing
- ▶ **Order picking** – targeted retrieval and assembly
- ▶ **Dispatch** – consolidation and outward processing

The decisive factor is not the number of zones, but their clear separation and distinct function.

03

Order through simple systems

Structure does not necessarily come from complex technology, but often from the consistent application of simple principles.

Effective elements include:

- ▶ Roll containers for flexible zone separation
- ▶ Pallet trucks for defined material flows
- ▶ Standardised container systems for harmonisation
- ▶ Clearly marked storage and traffic areas

These elements work above all because they are clear in use – not because they are complex.

04

Standardisation as a stabilising factor

Variety in the warehouse is often mistaken for flexibility. In reality, however, a high number of variants often leads to more coordination effort and a greater risk of errors.

Standardisation provides a counterbalance here:

- ▶ Reduced onboarding times
- ▶ Fewer misallocations
- ▶ Clearer day-to-day processes
- ▶ Greater process repeatability

Fewer systems generally mean more control over the overall process.



Conclusion:

A structured warehouse is not created by more technology or space, but by clarity in organisation.

When zones are defined, routes are guided logically and simple systems are used consistently, the result is a material flow that is stable, transparent and efficient.

For everyone who does not want to rethink their warehouse – but to simplify it consistently.