E-DISTRIBUTION
SMARTER DISTRIBUTION | COMPLETE SOLUTIONS

CASE STUDY

McLane Rides Smoothly into Fort Worth with Successful DC Renovation



Growing a business is exciting but not without its challenges. For McLane Grocery, based in Temple, TX, expanding their already sizeable supply chain enterprise in the southwest meant choosing between purchasing an existing distribution facility or building new. Since time is money and there never seems to be enough of either, they opted to lease a fully-equipped 550,000 sq. ft. warehouse in Fort Worth, TX and tap E-Distribution to complete the renovation.

Project Specs

- 625,000 square foot facility
- Pallet Rack Systems:
  - Push-Back Rack
  - Drive-In Rack
  - Pick Modules - 3 (3) Level
  - Pick Module - 1 (1) Level Cigarette
  - Selective Rack
- Redesign all aisles & traffic flow
- Reprofile all rack systems
- Certify new rack systems

The Plan

The E-Distribution team would design the new storage systems and traffic patterns, tear-down and rebuild several types of racking systems using mostly reclaimed materials… and do it all in about 8 months. This renovation would save McLane upwards of $2 million in expense vs new construction and new rack.

The Challenge

The warehouse space was divided into ambient, freezer and cooler storage areas, and while it was purchased with existing rack systems in place, the systems were not suitable for McLane's inventory and order throughput requirements. However, the benefits of purchasing the existing facility and systems would easily pay out by the end of the renovation.

Save Time & Money with Remodel

- New construction has different permitting and approval processes than renovation. It requires expensive permits and long lead times which would cost McLane months of downtime for the facility.
- Reworking existing pick modules and freezer storage rack is faster than waiting for shipment of materials often taking 12-14 weeks lead time and upwards of 3 months to install.

E-Distribution's creative approach to remodel is to repurpose as much of existing rack systems as possible while optimizing productivity and inventory flow. As a full-service materials handling systems integrator with an in-house professional installation team, E-Distribution is uniquely suited to tackle a complicated renovation like this project.

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Implementation

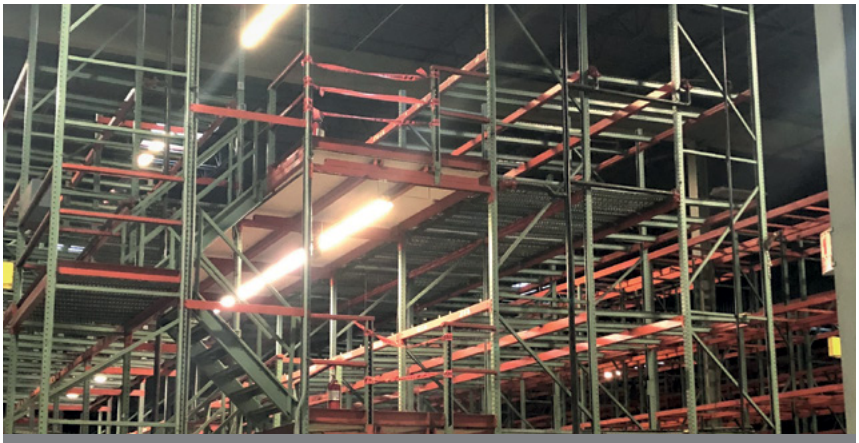
The redesigned rack system capacities were engineered and stamped to meet all required state and safety guidelines before the team got down to work repairing, reconfiguring and installing the new material handling systems.

The E-Distribution team purchased new carton flow for the ambient section of the warehouse to convert 4 existing pallet flow pick modules (picking cases to conveyor) into 2 carton flow pick modules for broken-case pick of candy and other dry goods. The selective, drive-in and push-back rack required some replacement parts to repair and reconfigure the systems for new loads and uses. Despite the challenging design and climate conditions within the facility, the team completed the full project in only 8 months.

Results

- Millions saved overall vs new construction.
- Installed in only 8 months.
- Used mostly existing racking components.

Another successful renovation is in the books! While E-Distribution is known for their creative, cost-effective approach, careful concern and timely response is applied to all projects… new builds and remodels alike… in order to supply the customer with the impressive results they've come to expect.



Before - Reconfigured rack system to meet McLane's inventory needs & ensure safety.



Ergonomic carton flow pick module.



Carton flow & conveyor pick efficiency.



Selective rack pallet storage.

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