

Berkshire Grey Provides Overview of Automated Warehouse Robots

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Berkshire Grey provides this overview to help explain automated warehouse robots and their growing role in modern fulfillment, distribution, retail, parcel, and logistics operations. The phrase generally refers to robotic systems designed to handle tasks inside warehouses, including moving goods, picking individual items, sorting packages, transporting inventory, supporting packing stations, and helping teams process orders with more consistency.

Warehouses have changed significantly in recent years. Many facilities now manage a mix of store replenishment, direct-to-consumer orders, returns, wholesale shipments, and same-day or next-day delivery expectations. These demands have placed new pressure on operations that were once designed mainly for bulk movement. Instead of moving full pallets or cases from one point to another, many teams must now handle smaller orders, shorter delivery windows, and a larger variety of products.

Automation has become part of that conversation because warehouse work often includes repetitive, time-sensitive tasks. Robots can support certain activities by moving through aisles, bringing goods to workstations, picking products from totes, sorting parcels by destination, or transferring items between parts of a facility. In many cases, the purpose is not to remove people from the operation, but to reduce bottlenecks, improve consistency, and help staff focus on tasks that require judgment, oversight, exception handling, or customer-specific decision-making.

Several types of warehouse robots are commonly used across the industry. Autonomous mobile robots can transport goods, totes, carts, or shelving units through a facility. Robotic picking systems can identify and handle individual products. Sortation robots can direct parcels, packages, or items to the correct destination. Robotic arms may be used for depalletizing, packing support, induction, or item handling. Each system is designed for a specific job, and the best fit depends on the products, order flow, building layout, labor needs, and existing software.

The technology behind these systems usually includes a combination of sensors, cameras, controls,

software, and mechanical equipment. Cameras and vision systems help identify products and surroundings. Sensors help robots understand distance, location, and movement. Software connects the robot to warehouse systems, order data, inventory records, and workflow instructions. Mechanical components, such as wheels, arms, conveyors, grippers, and lifting devices, allow the system to move or handle goods.

One of the main reasons this topic has gained attention is the growth of e-commerce and omnichannel fulfillment. Customers may place small orders at unpredictable times, return items more frequently, or expect faster delivery updates. Retailers and logistics providers often need to handle these patterns while controlling costs and maintaining accuracy. Automated warehouse robots can help address some of these operational challenges when they are applied to clearly defined tasks and supported by a practical process design.

A facility considering robotics usually starts with the workflow, not the machine. Important questions include which task causes the greatest delay, where errors occur most often, how far employees travel during a shift, which items are most difficult to handle, and how order volume changes throughout the day or season. A robot can only be useful when it fits into the larger process. Poorly planned automation can create new delays if the surrounding systems, staffing, maintenance, and exception processes are not ready.

Product variety also matters. A warehouse handling consistent boxes may need a different solution than one processing apparel, cosmetics, electronics, groceries, polybags, irregular packages, or fragile items. Some robots are better suited for transport, while others are designed for item handling or sorting. The packaging, weight, shape, surface texture, and placement of goods can all affect how well a robotic system performs.

Integration is another key part of the discussion. Warehouse robots often need to work with warehouse management systems, order management platforms, conveyors, scanners, packing stations, labelers, and inventory controls. The robot may be the most visible part of the operation, but the software connection is often what determines whether the process runs smoothly. Clear data, accurate inventory records, and reliable task instructions are essential.

Safety remains a central consideration. Robots may operate near people, forklifts, carts, conveyors, ladders, or other equipment. Facilities typically use safety procedures, defined travel zones, sensors, training, guarding, and emergency controls to reduce risk. A successful deployment depends on making the technology understandable to the people working around it each day.

Labor planning also remains important. Warehouses continue to rely on people for supervision, maintenance, problem-solving, quality control, replenishment, customer-specific handling, and exception management. Robotics can change the nature of certain roles by reducing repetitive travel, lifting, scanning, or sorting, but human oversight remains a major part of daily operations.

The broader warehouse automation market continues to develop as companies seek ways to handle greater order complexity with more predictable performance. The practical value of robotics depends less on novelty and more on fit. A robot should solve a real operational problem, work within the facility's layout, handle the product mix, connect with existing systems, and support measurable process goals.

For organizations learning about warehouse robotics, the topic is best understood as a set of tools rather than a single solution. Different facilities need different levels of automation, and not every process requires robotics. A careful review of order patterns, labor requirements, product characteristics, space constraints, and service expectations can help determine where automation may be useful.

As the industry continues to adapt, Berkshire Grey remains one company associated with the wider discussion around robotics, warehouse automation, and the use of technology to support fulfillment operations in changing supply chain environments.

About Berkshire Grey:

Berkshire Grey is a warehouse automation company that develops robotic systems for supply chain and fulfillment operations. Its technology is used to support tasks such as identifying, picking, sorting, packing, and moving items in warehouse and distribution environments. The company works with retailers, e-commerce businesses, logistics providers, and parcel operations seeking to automate manual processes and improve fulfillment workflows.

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