

To continually examine our processes to provide greater value to our customers without waste.

The Lean Line

WOW



**Focusing on the Waste:
“Material Handling/
Transportation”**

In continuing to explain the 8 common wastes that we want to tackle this year in our War on Waste, this week’s focus is on the waste called “**Material Handling/Transportation**”. As you may recall, “waste” is defined as anything other than the MINIMUM amount of time, equipment, tools, material, parts, people, and space required to ADD VALUE to the product/service/information-data.

Examples of **Material Handling/Transportation** waste include:

- Damage or loss while in transit
- Multiple moves of material around shop or at jobsite (lay down, installation, other trades)
- Loading & unloading trucks
- Sorting through material, lack of identification
- Any material that comes to shop and then goes to jobsite
- Trucking from separate shops (uncoordinated trips)
- Regular/routine trucking (may not have to stop regularly)
- Moving material on the job
- Separation of materials by trade
- Inefficient flow or lack of planning in regards to movement of material
- Working out of truck too much vs. taking material/equipment to job
- Movement of extra materials (transportation, material handling)
- Engineering drawings not completed/coordinated requiring additional material handling
- Info provided only as needed instead of in advance so unnecessary material handling without pre-planning
- Inefficient use of electronic forms of documents; too much paperwork
- Unnecessary or inefficient movement of information/paperwork/data between people/work tasks



Following are real-life examples of **Material Handling/Transportation** waste by Grunau Company:

In an effort to get drawings out the door, the Engineering Dept often distributes drawings that have yet to be checked and coordinated, so consequently they require extra printing and explanations to others.

On larger jobs, we often have trucks coming from the shops on a regular schedule rather than on an as-needed basis. Therefore, there are deliveries made that could have waited. On jobs that are close to the shops, it is common to see the foremen at the shops picking up things since “it’s so easy” but that is typically wasted transportation.

While we’ve made a concerted effort to ship equipment directly to jobsites, it’s sometimes seems easier for the ordering person to have it come to the warehouse and then deliver it to the jobsite. Also, when material/equipment is delivered to the jobsite, there is often little thought beforehand as to where it should go. Both processes usually result in double- and triple-handled material so what may seem easiest in the beginning of a process can lose value at the end of a process.

Waste elimination improves customer satisfaction which improves profitability. Let one of the Lean Team members know how you have reduced or eliminated **Material Handling/Transportation** waste so we can keep tabs of our progress. **You can help us win this War on Waste!**