

CARTON FLOW – THE BASICS

What is Carton Flow?



Carton flow, or gravity flowrack, is a case storage method that uses wheels or rollers to convey cases from one end of a rack or shelving module to the other. In a given storage bay you can create multiple levels of carton flow and each level will have a number of lanes of product, thus giving many more pick faces when compared to standard rack or shelving. Having more pick faces in a smaller area reduces pick paths and increases picking efficiencies. As well, when a case is removed, the remaining cases roll forward to the front – pickers do not have to reach into the racking and First-In First-Out (FIFO) is maintained.

Who Uses Carton Flow?

Any operation where orders are picked in either full or split cases is a potential carton flow application. In general, fast moving products are picked directly from pallets, and very slow moving products belong in storage systems like static shelving. Carton flow is suited to the middle range of product movement. As a rule of thumb, products that are suitable for carton flow are picked at least once a week, but not more than a half pallet worth of cases in that same week.

What Style of Carton Flow Do I Use?

The type of carton flow applied will depend on many factors – case sizes, case weights, the operating environment and product movement are just a few. 3D's full width welded steel carton flow beds are best suited to heavy weight, high throughput operations with boxes at least 6" x 6" in size. Typical users of our product include food and beverage distributors, meat packing plants, and automotive part suppliers.

