



4 high-value storage solutions for any LBM operation

EVERY LBM OPERATION is different. Some may have multiple yards catering to general construction; others may be smaller operations specializing in high-end homebuilding and remodeling. One might be expanding its product lines; another might think its current site can't accommodate expansion.

Whatever the differences, there's one thing they all have in common: the need for hardworking, efficient storage. The right buildings, sheds and racks, when selected and planned for an LBM retailer's particular site, product mix, and objectives, can meet a multitude of storage and space challenges. Plus, they can bring newfound efficiencies, benefits and growth opportunities.

Versatile, High-Density Storage Solutions

When it comes to helping LBM retailers of all types and sizes update their sites, expand their offerings, or open new yards, Sunbelt Rack turns

to four workhorses that offer outstanding design flexibility, storage capacity, and material handling and organization efficiency.

1. Drive-thru buildings

These covered rack-supported steel structures protect lumber and other building materials not only from weather damage, but from unnecessary product movement as well. Access from one or more drive-thru aisles allows materials to be loaded directly onto the customer's truck or trailer. Direct access and streamlined handling also reduces time, labor, and risk of damage when loading product into the building.

Using rack systems to support the roof increases storage capacity and makes this hybrid set-up a far more cost-effective solution than using separate buildings and rack systems.

2. T- or L-sheds

These offer the same benefits and efficiencies as drive-thru buildings

but with a smaller footprint. They can be used when a site can better accommodate multiple smaller structures than one large one, or when the capacity of a drive-thru isn't needed.

T-sheds are ideal for long-length materials like dimensional and treated lumber and engineered wood products, and provide direct, drive-up loading and unloading from two sides.

If two-sided access isn't needed or the site layout doesn't allow for it, L-sheds, with access from one side, provide the same storage functionality as T-sheds. L-sheds work well along property lines, or against the sides of existing buildings.

3. Umbrella sheds and three-sided buildings

These are designed for large-quantity bulk-storage of materials like drywall, OSB and other sheet materials, as well as full units of dimensional lumber and studs. The umbrella shed allows loading and unloading from two sides; the three-sided building

from one. Like the T- and L-shed alternatives, each structure provides the access option that works best for the operation and where it will be located in the yard.

4. Automated systems

When it comes to material handling and storage efficiency, automated systems like Sunbelt's Power Bin raise the bar. In about one minute, the battery-operated loader device fully and safely loads a bin with lumber, plywood, vinyl siding, MDF moulding, composite decking, metal roofing, or other materials.

Picking materials is just as easy: They can be hand-picked directly from a bin or the contents of an entire bin can be automatically rolled out and unloaded onto a truck.

Putting It All Together for New Efficiencies & Growth

The beauty of these systems is their flexibility and how well they work together. Each can be scaled up or down so a lumber yard gets only what it needs and wants. Integrating steel racking and Power Bins to support the roofs of drive-thru buildings and sheds adds valuable storage with



AUTOMATED MATERIAL handling systems, such as Sunbelt's Power Bin, allow entire loads to be rolled out for easy loading.
(All photos courtesy Sunbelt Rack)

the same loading and unloading efficiency offered by the buildings themselves.

Using the right building for differ-

ent products organizes materials logically and neatly, making them easy for employees and customers to locate and improving flow throughout the site.

The power of these systems is how they maximize an operation's capacity and efficiency. These benefits readily translate into cost and labor savings, sales opportunities, and increased customer loyalty.

Operational savings: With high-density storage, retailers can open a store on a small or pricey piece of real estate. Easy access to well organized materials reduces time and labor entailed in locating and handling materials. It also reduces losses from material damage and employee and customer injury.

Sales drivers: Having the right product mix and enough of it is key to not missing out on sales. When customers know they can quickly and easily get the products they need when they need them, they will be back time after time. In addition, they're likely to spread the word, driving in more business.

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T-SHEDS provide the same efficiencies of drive-thru buildings—with a smaller footprint.