



CUSTOMER RESULTS



“When I told Crown that we were looking for a vendor that could help us with racking and the layout of our warehouse, Crown asked if they could bid on the business. I admit I was initially confused. I always considered Crown Equipment solely as a forklift provider. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that they could help us with our racking and pallet flow needs.”

Paul Cochrane,
Inventory Manager
Columbus Vegetable Oils



Watch how Crown Equipment helped Columbus Vegetable Oils meet its growing capacity needs.

Columbus Vegetable Oils

New Warehouse Design and Staging Area Cuts Loading Time In Half

APPLICATION

Columbus Vegetable Oils is a Des Plaines, Illinois-based provider of shortening and oils. Within its 330,000-square-foot warehouse, the company processes and packages more than 100 different products, including salad and cooking oils, solid and liquid shortening, bakery oils and more. Packaging varies from 24-ounce retail size to industrial bulk tankers. The company’s products are distributed in all 50 states and select international locations. At any given time, about 2,000 totes, each containing 2,000 pounds of product, are stored in the facility. About 45 to 50 truckloads (20 pallets a truck) of product are shipped per day, with about 80 percent of the product moving through the facility within a week.

CHALLENGE

Business accelerated shortly after Columbus Vegetable Oils moved to its current location. This unexpected growth significantly strained the warehouse’s capacity and threatened to negatively impact warehouse flow. Product rotation is critical, and the company found it difficult to find space to rotate and store over 5,000 different SKUs. The company has 18 docks and ships 30-40 truckloads of product a day. Product was stacked on pallets and placed directly on the floor. Forklift operators were already struggling to maneuver around pallets. Space around the loading docks was limited, which inhibited the company from properly staging products for easy transition onto waiting trucks.

SOLUTION

Crown worked closely with Rack Builders, Inc. and Mallard Manufacturing to create a warehouse design that increased staging areas closer to the dock, translating into less forklift movement. Flow racks are now 30 feet from the docks, enabling Columbus Vegetable Oils to situate truck trailers in front of the staging area and quickly load an entire truckload. With a new racking system and staging area in place, Columbus Oils is now able to meet its growing capacity needs.

RESULT

- The company **did not have to purchase another warehouse.**
- Flow racks are only 30 feet from staging area resulting in operators being **able to load an entire truck in ½ the time it took before.**
- Now, about 70 percent of the time that the product is in a staging area, it is **no more than 20 feet from the shipping truck** — translating into less wear and tear on the forklifts, which helps maintain superior performance levels and extend lifespan.

**8-10X
MORE
STAGING ROOM**

Columbus Vegetable Oils now experiences 8-10 times more staging room compared to when the company was stacking pallets on the floor.