

7 common racking myths and what's really behind them

Racking systems are underestimated: hardly any other area of warehouse logistics sees so many misconceptions, half-truths and generalisations circulating. Myths and prejudices abound. Time to get to the bottom of the most persistent ones and dispel them with the help of some facts.

MYTH #1:

"Racks are standard goods. It doesn't matter who I buy from."

Fact: The quality of storage shelving varies depending on the manufacturer. High-quality racking is usually much more durable and meets strict safety requirements. This helps to protect employees, leads to lower downtimes and maintenance costs, and therefore pays off in the long term. Every warehouse has individual requirements in terms of capacity, space, and goods. Standardised racking systems often fall short of meeting these requirements. It is therefore important to have a partner company that offers comprehensive advice and support in addition to customised racking systems – from selection and assembly to inspections. Additional services after the purchase – such as training, inspections, and maintenance – relieve the burden on staff and further increase safety.

MYTH #2:

"Once a rack is in place, there's nothing I can do about it."

Fact: Modern storage racks are often modular in design. This means that they can be extended and remodelled and thus adapted to new operational requirements. However, to fully utilise this flexibility, companies should think through their storage strategy carefully from the outset. And they should do so together with expert consultants who have a detailed understanding of the interplay between the various racking systems and all material handling processes. They enable companies to adapt to new market requirements many years down the line without having to completely redesign their warehouse solution.

MYTH #3:

"Storage racks do not require regular maintenance."

Fact: Like all important equipment, racking needs to be inspected and maintained regularly. This is the only way to ensure its safety and functionality in the long term. During inspections, specialists identify signs of possible structural damage or wear and tear for example and can take countermeasures at an early stage. However, maintenance and inspection are not only crucial for safety in the warehouse – they are also required by most health and safety legislation.

MYTH #4:

All storage racks are the same.

Fact: There are a variety of storage racking systems, each designed for different applications and load requirements. For example, there is pallet racking, heavy duty racking, drive-in racking, flow racking and more, each designed for specific storage needs. Choosing the right racking system is based on various factors – such as type of goods stored, room height, load capacity and accessibility – and it plays a key role in a successful business.

MYTH #5:

High-quality storage racks are expensive.

Fact: The initial cost of purchasing and installing storage racking may seem high at first, but it is an investment that can significantly improve warehouse efficiency and capacity. Over the life cycle of the racking, the costs are amortised as companies can use their space more effectively and increase their capacity and efficiency. Less product damage and faster workflows further reduce warehousing costs.

MYTH #6:

All storage racks fulfil the current safety standards.

Fact: Some people assume that all racking systems available on the market automatically comply with the applicable safety standards. This is not always the case. Products can vary around the world and not all manufacturers interpret the relevant standards in the same way. Companies should therefore look for evidence of compliance with standards and corresponding certifications when purchasing. Jungheinrich bases its design and development on the DIN standards, which are internationally recognised as the most stringent. All pallet racking is certified with the RAL quality seal. Regular tests by independent testing organisations ensure that Jungheinrich's quality standards remain the same internationally.

MYTH #7:

Standards are the same everywhere.

Fact: In fact, the applicable standards vary greatly from country to country. Companies should therefore check carefully whether a supplier fulfils the regional safety requirements. Jungheinrich has international experts who are familiar with all the stipulations of their respective markets and can provide advice and support – from the selection of warehouse racking to implementation on site. This way, companies play it safe.

We have compiled further questions and answers about racking systems for you on the web. A helpful, informative, and supplier-neutral guide for your purchase decision.

Find out more in the FAQ:

<https://www.jungheinrich.in/products/racking-and-warehouse-storage>

The logo for Jungheinrich, featuring a red upward-pointing arrow above the word "JUNGHEINRICH" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.