4FLOW

Mastering put-away strategies in SAP EWM

A comprehensive guide

SAP Partner

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Efficient warehouse management is crucial for smooth supply chain operations, and one of the key components is an effective put-away strategy. In SAP Extended Warehouse Management (EWM), put-away strategies determine how and where products are stored after goods receipts. When implemented correctly, these strategies optimize space utilization, enhance efficiency, and streamline overall operations.

The challenges of put-away delays

One of the major challenges in warehouse management is delays in putting away products to their designated locations. If items aren't put away promptly, temporary storage spaces can quickly become overloaded, creating bottlenecks and disrupting the flow of incoming goods. This can lead to inefficiencies and operational overheads.

To avoid these challenges, it is important to establish a clear put-away strategy. Users can configure put-away strategies in SAP EWM to ensure consistent and transparent storage of all items entering the warehouse.

Common put-away strategies in SAP EWM

Here's an overview of the most commonly used put-away strategies in SAP EWM, along with use cases for each and how to configure them.

1 Manual selection of storage bin

In this strategy, products are not assigned to specific storage bins. During the put-away process, the user manually selects a storage bin.

Use case: This strategy is useful when flexibility is required, allowing the warehouse operator to scan available options and select an empty bin on the spot.

2 Fixed bin strategy

With this method, each kind of item or material is assigned to a unique storage bin.

Use case: This approach is ideal for materials with consistent storage locations, such as high-turnover items.

Configuration:
> Maintain fixed bin assignments in the material master
> Configure storage bin determination rules in SAP EWM

3 Open storage strategy

According to this approach, products can be placed in any available bin within a defined storage area.

Use case: This strategy works best for products with variable sizes or irregular demand patterns.

Configuration:
> Define storage type and section indicators
> Set up rules for selecting open bins based on capacity and availability

4 Next empty bin strategy

SAP EWM automatically assigns the next available empty bin for storage.

Use case: This approach is most effective for warehouses with high turnover and fast-moving products.

Configuration:
> Define storage type and section indicators
> Configure rules for determining the next empty bin

5 Addition to existing stock strategy

Incoming products are stored in bins that already contain the same product to consolidate inventory.

Use case: This strategy is ideal for managing inventory of products stored in multiple locations in the warehouse.

Configuration:
> Enable the “addition to existing stock” indicator in storage type
> Set up put-away strategies to prioritize bins with existing stock

6 Bulk storage strategy

In this method, large quantities of homogeneous products are stored in bulk areas.

Use case: Bulk storage is perfect for bulky or palletized goods.

Configuration:
> Define bulk storage areas
> Configure bulk bin determination rules and capacity checks

7 Near-picking bin strategy

Products are stored close to the picking area to minimize picking time.

Use case: This approach fits best for warehouses with high-frequency picking operations.

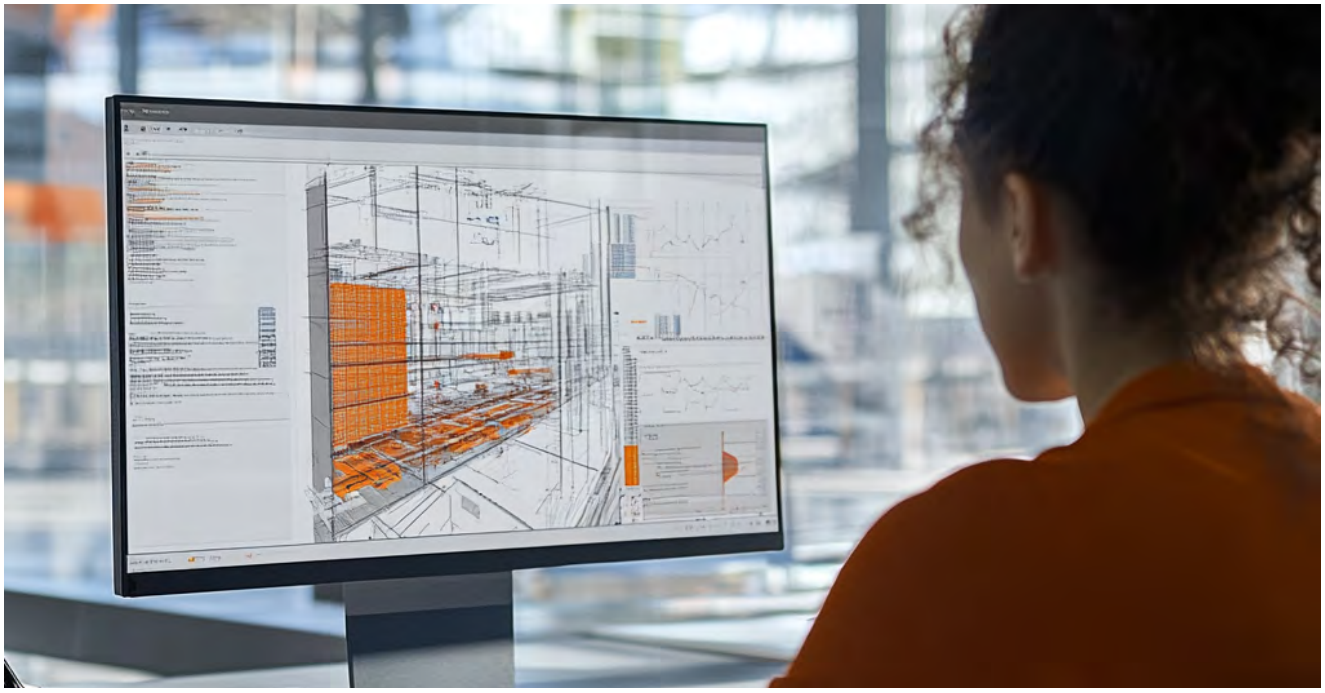
Configuration:
> Identify storage bins and areas near the picking area
> Configure rules to prioritize these bins during put-away

8 Storage type search sequence

With this method, SAP EWM follows a predefined sequence of storage spaces or zones – referred to as storage types in SAP EWM – to find suitable storage bins.

Use case: For warehouses with a wide variety of incoming goods, this strategy combines multiple strategies for more flexible put-away processes.

Configuration:
> Define a sequence of storage types
> Configure a search sequence and criteria for bin selection



9 Pallet storage type put-away strategy

In this approach, SAP EWM follows a predefined sequence of storage areas, referred to within the system as storage types, to find suitable storage bins based on the handling unit (HU) type.

Use case: Combining multiple strategies, this storage strategy works best for put-away of packed material in different HU types like cartons, wire baskets or pallets.

Configuration:
> Define a sequence of storage types with allowed HU types
> Configure the search sequence and criteria for bin selection and HU type checks

Configuring put-away in SAP EWM: a step-by-step guide

Implementing the strategies discussed above in SAP EWM involves several key configuration steps.

Step 1:
Define storage types

Procedure: Define storage types – such as bulk storage areas, general storage areas or rack storage areas – and their attributes in the system

Transaction code (t-code): SPRO

Menu path: SPRO → SAP IMG → SCM EWM → Master Data → Define Storage Types

Step 2:
Define storage sections

Procedure: Define storage sections within the storage types, as well as their indicators

T-code: SPRO

Menu path: SPRO → SAP IMG → SCM EWM → Master Data → Define Storage Sections

Step 3:
Define put-away control parameters

Procedure: Set up parameters to determine bins and control put-away processes

T-code: SPRO

Menu path: SPRO → SAP IMG → SCM EWM → Goods Receipt Process → Strategies → Define Put-away Control Parameters

Step 4:
Maintain warehouse product master

Procedure: Maintain product-specific put-away strategies and bin assignments

T-code: /N/SCWM/MAT1

Menu path: SPRO → SAP IMG → SCM EWM → Master Data → Product → Maintain Warehouse Product Master

Step 5:
Configure storage bin determination

Procedure: Define rules to determine bins based on storage type and product

T-code: SPRO

Menu path: SPRO → SAP IMG → SCM EWM → Goods Receipt Process → Strategies → Configure Storage Bin Determination

Testing and validation

After configuration, it's essential to test the put-away transactions to ensure that the system assigns storage bins according to the defined strategies. Based on the test results and operational feedback, configurations may need to be updated.

By carefully configuring and **implementing put-away strategies in SAP EWM**, you can significantly enhance the efficiency of your warehouse operations, ensuring that your inventory is managed effectively and that your warehouse runs smoothly.

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Contact us today for a free consultation and take the first step towards a smarter, more efficient supply chain.

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