

HOW TO SELECT BASIC PALLET RACKING



Step One

Consider and measure the area. Ceiling height, the condition and strength of the floor, obstructions on the walls and overhead, building columns, and doorways and exits all need to be considered. Plan your system so there will be no interference.

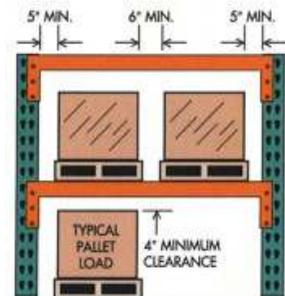


Step Two

Know the dimensions and weight of what you will be storing and how it will be stored. In cartons? On pallets? Will there be loose or odd-shaped items?

Step Three

Understand how the material will be added to and removed from the rack. Forklift? Crane? Pallet Jack? By hand? Allow enough aisle space for equipment and personnel to maneuver. Be sure to include the turn-radius of the lift trucks if necessary.



Step Four

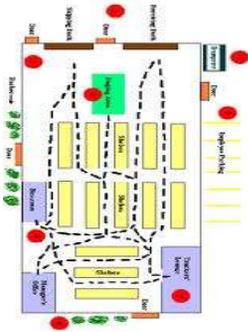
Select your basic rack components—upright frames and beams. Pick a frame depth suited to the items being stored. Pallets generally overhang the front and rear beams by 3 inches, so a 48" deep pallet usually indicates a 42" deep frame.

The frame height should be enough for the beam levels, product height (including pallet if used), and lift-off space of at least 4 inches. Remember to make sure the frame height selected will fit the clear height of the room.

Select a beam length and capacity that meets your needs, remembering that beam capacity is indicated for pairs of beams. Check the capacity charts for details.

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Step Five

Design your layout. Plan out your rows of rack allowing for aisle space, exits and doorways. Ensure you have space between the rack and walls to allow for any pallet overhang. This is usually between 8 and 12 inches.

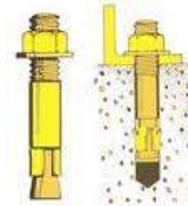
Plan your layout around overhead obstructions and fire sprinklers if your rack is tall enough to be a problem.

You may want to contact the local building department and find out if you need a permit for the rack system.

Step Six

Select the needed accessories like concrete wedge anchors (two per frame), row spacers, wall ties and pallet supports.

This is an opportunity to up-sell your customer on column protection, particularly if any existing rack seems damaged.



Step Seven

Add wire decking to your rack system. Pay careful attention to the frame depth and beam length as these dimensions will guide you in selecting the correct decking.

The deck depth will always match the frame depth. The beam width will help you determine the width of the decking needed and the number of individual decks per level to match the beam width.

Unlike beams, deck capacity is per deck, so if your 96" beam has a capacity per pair of 5,000#, the decks should have a minimum capacity of 2,500#, because two 46" decks will fit on a 96" beam.



Remember, DAK is here to help if you have questions or an unusual need or problem.

Our goal is to help your project succeed.

