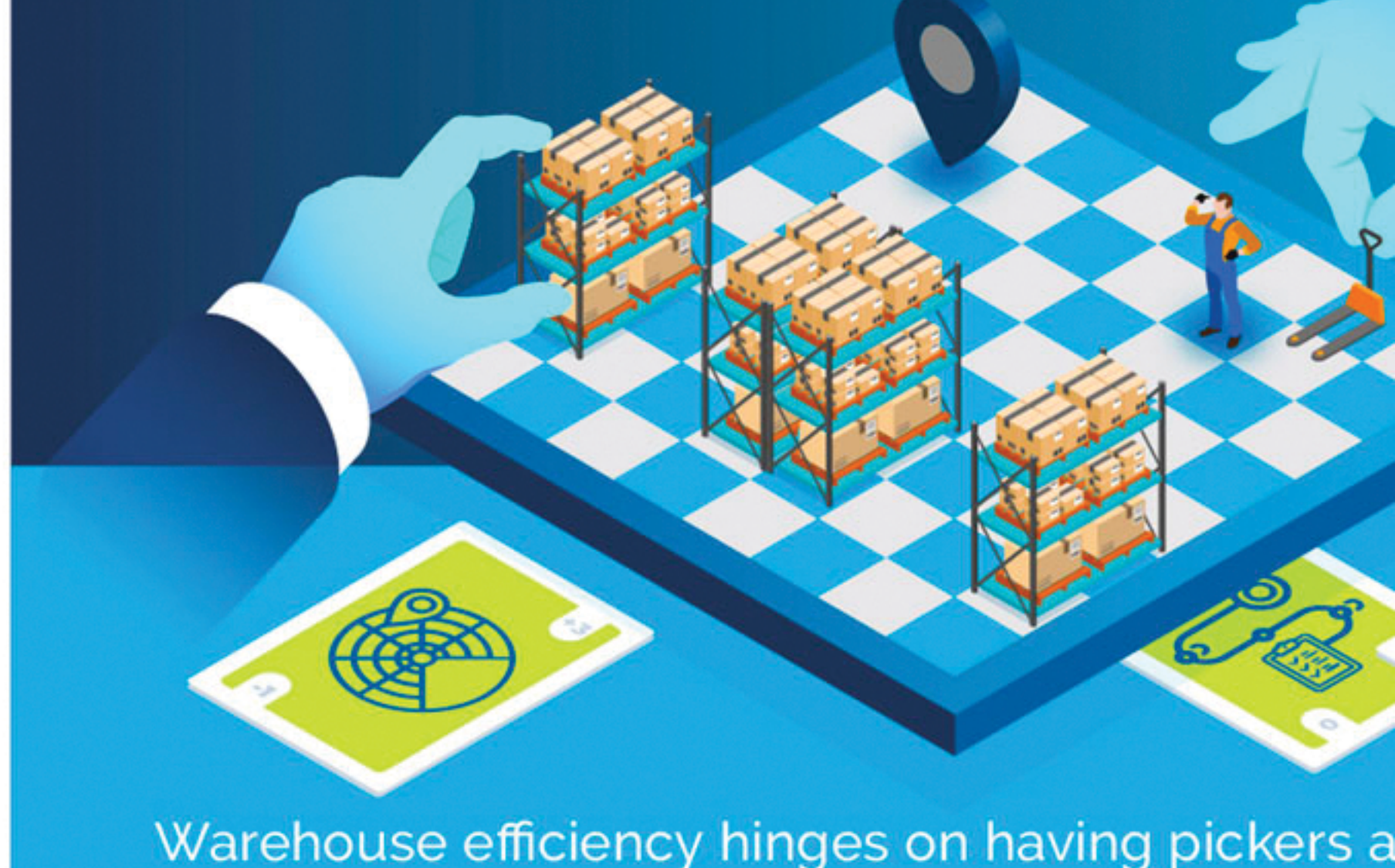




The Best 3 Warehouse Order Picking Methods



Warehouse efficiency hinges on having pickers move the shortest distances and, and reducing the number of times products are touched. The basic picking methods are **wave picking**, **batch picking** or **zone picking**. Most warehouses use one, or a combination, of these three methods.

01.

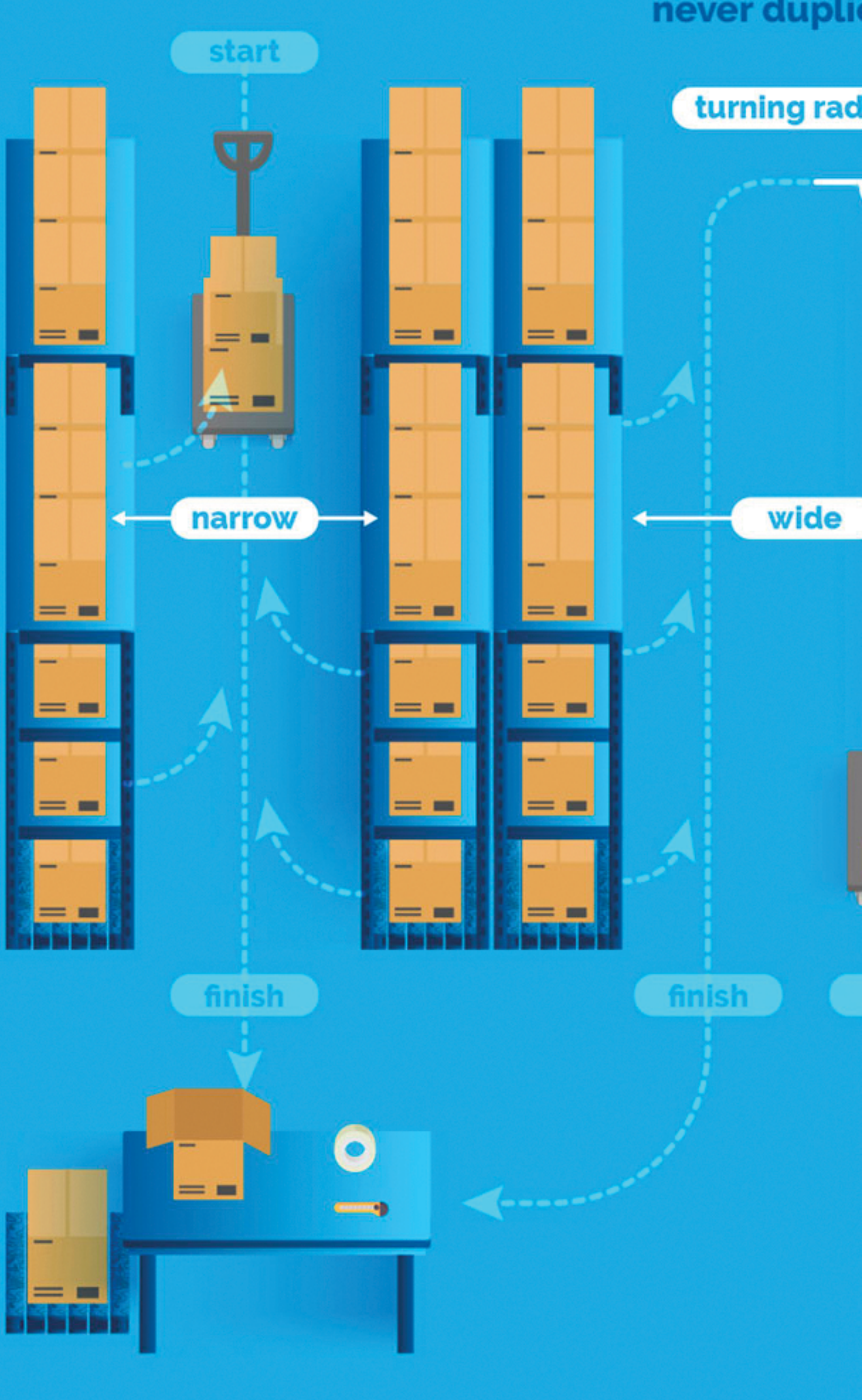
Wave Picking

Wave picking works on the concept of creating a picking sequence that targets individual line items to fill an order in one trip through the warehouse.



What the actual picking sequence looks like depends on the warehouse layout. What's important is that the sequence flows, saves time, and doesn't involve backtracking.

The goal is to create a sequence that never duplicates a path.



Equipment choice is also a factor for a warehouse picking process. Aisle placement must consider the width and turning radius of carts or lift trucks, and whether there will be one-way or two-way traffic. Failing to consider these things could cause bottlenecks, or even collisions. All of which will impact productivity.

02.

Batch Picking

Batch picking uses the wave picking concept, but for more than one order at a time. One pick list combines line items for multiple orders. The picker fulfills the batch of orders in one pass down the pick path or "wave."



Batch pickers are likely to pick a large amount that they can carry on their carts in one trip. The size of the order batch and the size of the order batch determine the structure of the batch.

Typically, batching is used for orders that include more than four SKUs. Filling a cart with many different items may be more efficient than wave picking.

03.

Zone Picking

With this picking method, workers are assigned to a specific area or "zone." They will pick products only in their zone, even though an order might include line items from more than one zone. Once picking at a zone is done, the items are delivered to a staging area and combined with items from the other zones.



Zone picking is helpful when a warehouse is very large, or when products are very different from one another. For example, there may be a zone for dry goods that is separate from a refrigerated zone.