

# APC Storage Solutions



## New Idea on Bulk Goods Storage

Since inception in 1996, New Idea Furniture has grown from a small family business to one of Perth's most successful furniture traders. The company manufactures and retails quality imported lounge suites, bedrooms and dining room settings. With five retail outlets across Perth and plans for further rapid expansion, New Idea has a bright future.

New Idea's managing director Tom Wang says his company's greatest challenge is keeping track of the large stock quantities handled every day. On average, five 40 foot containers arrive at his loading dock each week. Having seven smaller separate warehouses across one suburb, New Idea's inventory management systems couldn't keep up with the business's sales growth. The daily storage and handling of over-sized products such as couches presents challenges to safety, efficiency and productivity. Disjointed storage facilities meant that Tom's delivery trucks were constantly shuttling goods around the warehouse district, rather than delivering customer orders.

To take his flourishing business to the next level, Tom needed to consolidate his warehouses. After purchasing a 2500m<sup>2</sup> block in Malaga, his next challenge was to build and fit-out an efficient distribution centre to service his retail showrooms. When considering the priorities for the new facility, Tom established that safety, capacity for large quantities of stock and maximum utilisation of floor space were the key factors to success.

Tom's vision was a system in which operators would place furniture onto a

stockpicker forklift, manoeuvre this into position and elevate the platform to a required level. The product could then be pushed onto the raised storage level by hand, with the operator being able to walk onto the shelf deck.

Tom approached APC Storage Solutions with his requirements and together began working towards an optimum layout for his new distribution centre. APC's long experience with stock picker racking systems ensured they understood Tom's specific concerns regarding safety and storage issues.

Tom enlisted United Equipment to manufacture a custom picking platform to suit his exact furniture handling needs. A minimum aisle width of 1530mm was designed by APC to suit Tom's new stockpicker platform. APC manufactured a heavy duty guide rail system to guide the stock picker into the aisle, these guide rails are complemented with impact absorbing lead-ins. The guide rails are powder coated bright yellow for improved visibility. The stock picker rack was precision installed by APC using a datum point, being a structural column in the centre of the building, to ensure the configuration fit Tom's building perfectly.

The rack consists of a total of 400 storage levels, providing a total of approximately 3600 square metres of shelf space. Safety hand and knee



barriers were installed at the rear and sides of each storage level to prevent falls. Each storage level is rated to store 2000kgs of stock and is decked with extra-thick particleboard for supporting personnel and point-loads. This further ensures operator safety is never compromised when loading stock.

Tom says APC's narrow aisle stock picker rack design is of the highest quality and he was "happy with the installation process". Tom explained that he benefited by being able to load the rack immediately as the precision installation progressed, saving him time and money.. The result of this project has provided Tom with an inventory management system which keeps better track of stock and enables his retail stores to serve customers more efficiently. Direct customer deliveries can now be made immediately after they place an order for their new furniture.

Contact APC on **1300 138 303**





Photograph courtesy of Cooper Fluid Systems

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## Raised Storage Areas



When you're short on floor space, don't move out... move up!

APC have proven expertise in raised storage areas with hundreds of installations throughout Australia and overseas via its international distribution network. Based on quality steel racking or shelving modular components, APC can engineer a custom design to suit your building and storage requirements. Combined with solid structural stair cases, safety hand, knee and kick rails, pallet access gates, and quality timber floor decking, you have the best raised storage area for absolute peace of mind in performance, reliability and safety.

APC... More than Manufacturing.

# Storage Solutions



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