

TriFactor Solution

Case Study

**POWERED CONVEYOR, INDUSTRIAL SHELVING,
SEMI-AUTOMATIC SEALER, PALLET RACK AND STORAGE**

Company Description

Natural Life Collections, Inc. is a locally-owned company based in Jacksonville, Florida. As a leader in the giftware industry, the company distributes its products, such as collectibles, ornaments, charms and glass crystals, to larger retailers like Hallmark and smaller gift shops and outlets throughout the United States.

Situation

The company was operating out of several small facilities. Distribution was handled from office space converted to encompass industrial shelving and order picking operations. Corporate was located in a separate office in Saint Augustine, FL and overflow inventory was stored in a separate warehouse and required trucking to distribute. Distribution was not automated and relied on hand carts and paper picking to fill orders. Because seasonal items arrive in large quantities at particular times of year, Natural Life Collections, Inc. needed to improve its product storage and distribution efficiency. Further, the company could no longer support its 20%-30% annual growth.



Assessment

Working with Natural Life, TriFactor agreed that combining the operation in one central location would meet their current goals (throughput, value added services and capacity). Increasing distribution efficiency with automation in a phased approach would also allow for future expansion while controlling initial costs.

System Summary

Company:

Natural Life Collections, Inc.

TriFactor Provided:

Engineering layout design & modification
Phased implementation expansion plan
On site project management /
coordination with GC & other trades
Demo and reinstallation of existing
material handling equipment from
other warehouses

Size:

35,000 Square Feet

Facility Type:

Distribution/Corporate Office

Products Handled:

Giftware products

Markets Served:

United States

Products Utilized:

Customized carton flow shelving
Industrial shelving
Pallet Rack
Powered and Gravity Conveyor
Semi-Automatic Case Sealer

(over)



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Solution

Natural Life agreed with the proposed solution and the project was completed on time and on budget, taking Natural Life Collections, Inc. from zero automation in three separate locations to a consolidated semi-automatic distribution center encompassing all functions. The new facility incorporated a U-shaped pick floor layout for better process flow and efficiency. It also included reserve storage racking, a basic automated order picking system using carton flow rack, industrial shelving, mobile shelving, powered conveyor and semiautomatic case sealing.

Result

The project delivered a 30% increase in productivity, while allocating space for future expansion to double the existing picking capacity as business grows. Natural Life Collections, Inc. has met its required goals of increased throughput and greater capacity, while realizing a savings in both its overall costs and workforce requirements.

ROI

36 months.



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