

A large industrial warehouse with high ceilings and numerous storage racks filled with boxes. In the foreground, a woman in a dark uniform with a yellow safety vest is looking down at a handheld device. In the background, other workers and a conveyor belt system are visible.

ProVision WMS
By Ahearn & Soper Inc

EBOOK / 2026 EDITION

Transforming window and door manufacturing with ProVision WMS.

How ProVision WMS brings order to the warehouse
behind custom production.

EDITION

2026

CHAPTERS

Four

FROM

Ahearn & Soper, Canada

CONTENTS

In this eBook

A practical guide for window and door manufacturers: where the warehouse pressure comes from, what a WMS changes on the floor, how to build a case you can defend, and how a rollout runs.

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A worker in a light-colored long-sleeved shirt and dark trousers with a yellow stripe is handling a long, thin, light-colored material, possibly a window frame component, in a factory setting. The background shows industrial machinery and a green door.

CHAPTER 1 OF 4

01

Why window and door plants are different

Nearly every order is built to its own specification, from glass, aluminum, vinyl, wood and hardware that all behave differently on the shelf.

Customisation at scale

Window and door manufacturing combines precision engineering with customisation at scale. Many orders carry their own size, glazing, colour and hardware, yet the plant still has to run with the material discipline of a high volume operation.

What makes the work hard

- High customisation: many orders are built to a unique specification
- Material variety: glass, aluminum, vinyl, wood and hardware, each stored and handled differently
- Complex assembly: many components have to reach the line together
- Standards for energy efficiency, security and durability, and the building codes behind them

Each of these lands in the warehouse first. If a frame profile, a sealed unit or a box of hardware is missing or in the wrong place, the order waits.

WORTH KNOWING

A warehouse management system earns its keep where materials, orders and people meet: at receiving, at the pick face and at dispatch.



COMMON PRESSURES

Four places the pressure shows up

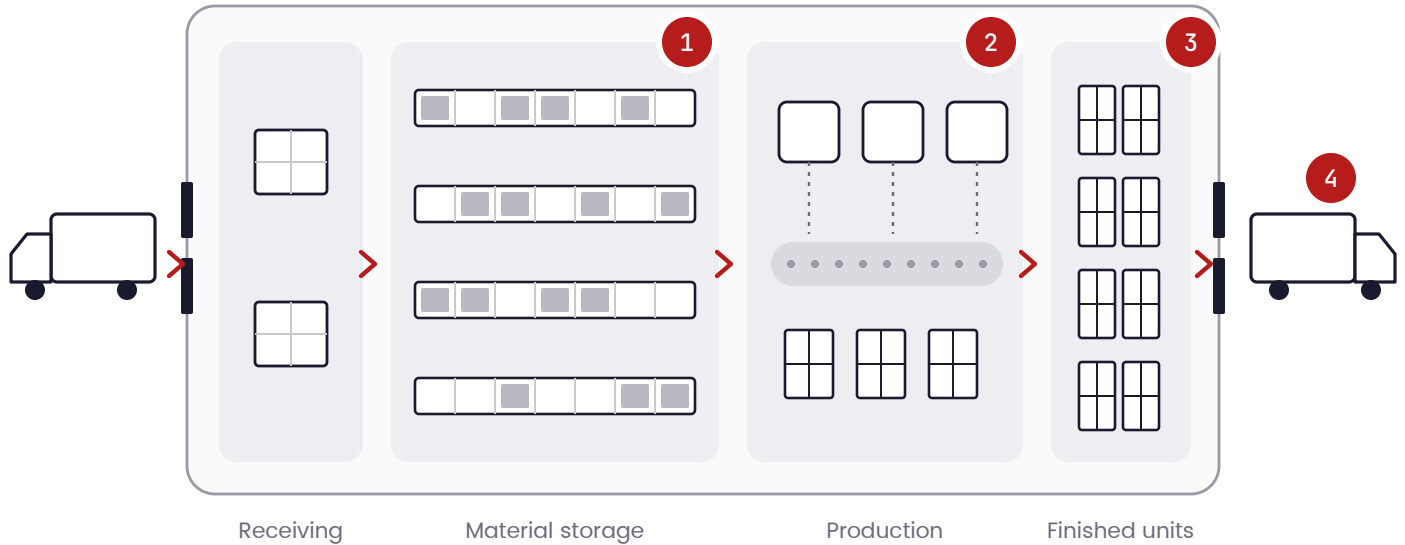


FIGURE 1. WHERE THE FOUR PRESSURES LAND ON A WINDOW AND DOOR PLANT FLOOR. SCHEMATIC, NOT TO SCALE.

1 Inventory

- Thousands of SKUs: materials, components, finished units
- Specialty items with long lead times
- Offcuts that are hard to account for

2 Production flow

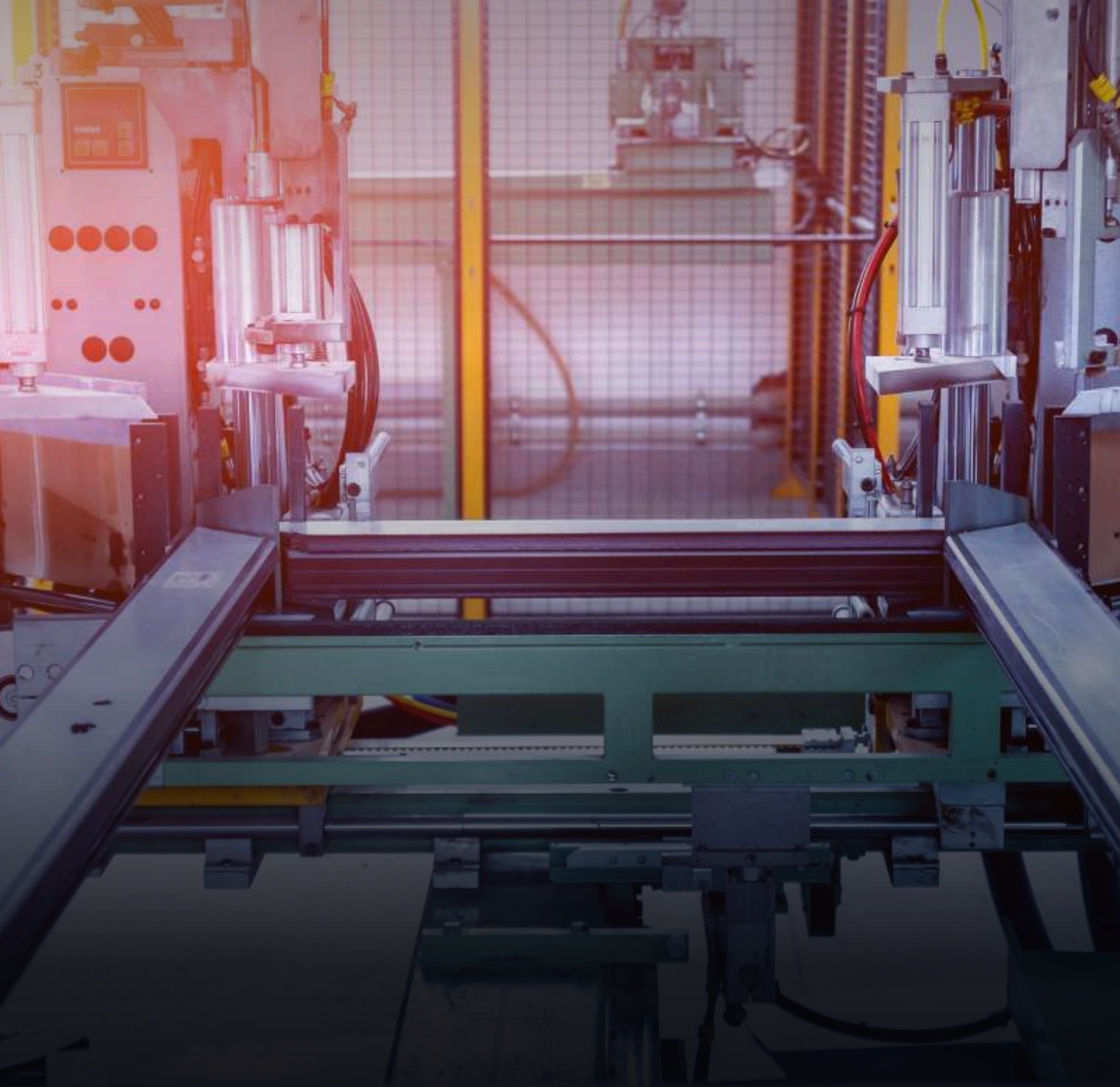
- Custom orders moving through several stages
- Changeovers between product types
- Bottlenecks when one component is late

3 Quality and traceability

- Consistent quality on custom products
- Records that prove code compliance
- Returns and warranty claims

4 Customer service

- Tight delivery windows
- Accurate lead times for custom work
- Change orders handled without confusion



ON THE LINE

Every frame starts as material on a shelf

Profiles, glass and hardware have to reach the line in the right order and the right quantity. That is warehouse work before it is production work.



CHAPTER 2 OF 4

02

What ProVision WMS brings to the plant

Manufacturing is one of the operations ProVision WMS serves, alongside ecommerce, distribution, food and beverage, and logistics.

THE SYSTEM

One system, separate apps

ProVision WMS has a modular structure, with separate apps for assembly, billing, and order and inventory management. It serves operations across Canada and the United States.

- Real-time inventory visibility
- RF device support for scanning on the floor
- Cloud-based or on-premise deployment
- Connections to ERP, EDI, shipping and ecommerce systems

Source: provisionwms.com, fetched July 2026.

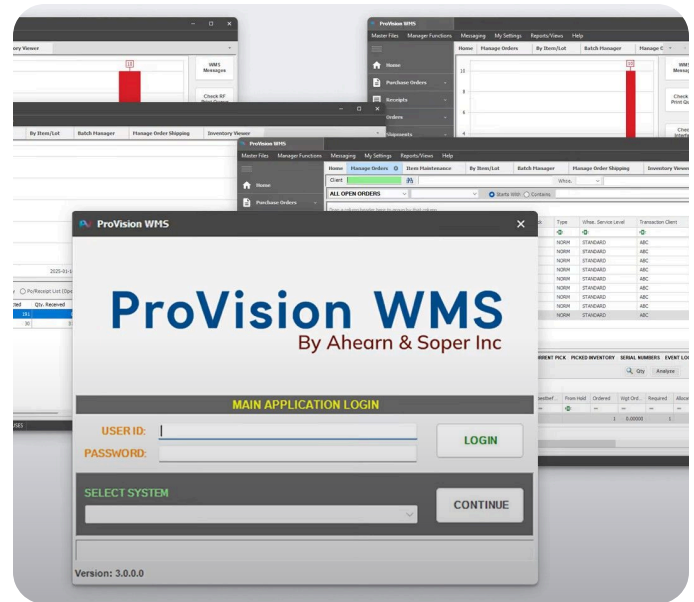


FIGURE 2. PROVISION WMS SCREENS: LOGIN, ORDER MANAGEMENT AND ITEM MAINTENANCE.

THE CORE ENGINE

One flow from dock to dock

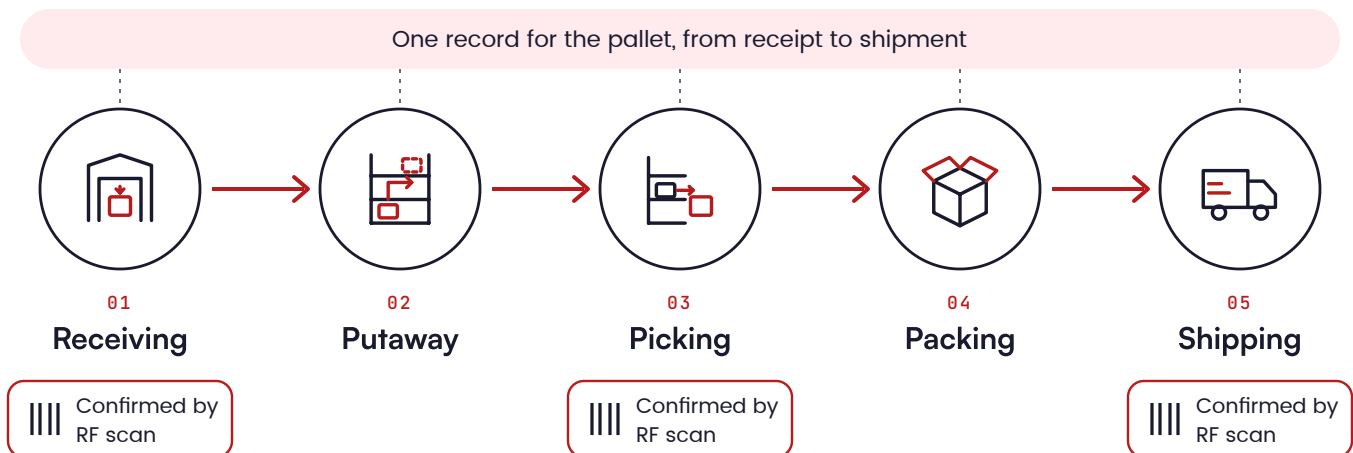


FIGURE 3. THE CORE ENGINE THAT EVERY PROVISION SOLUTION RUNS, AS PUBLISHED ON AHEARN.COM/PROVISION. SCAN POINTS: PROVISIONWMS.COM, FETCHED JULY 2026, AND CUSTOMER REVIEWS SHOWN ON THAT SITE.

What the system does today

01

Inventory visibility

Real-time stock visibility, so office and floor can say where a profile or a box of hardware is.

02

An app for assembly

A separate assembly app sits beside order and inventory management, suited to units built from parts.

03

Scanning on the floor

RF device support confirms receiving, picking and shipping by scan at the point of work.

04

ERP connection

Connects to ERP systems such as Microsoft Dynamics 365, SAP, Oracle and Epicor, avoiding blind spots.

05

EDI and reporting

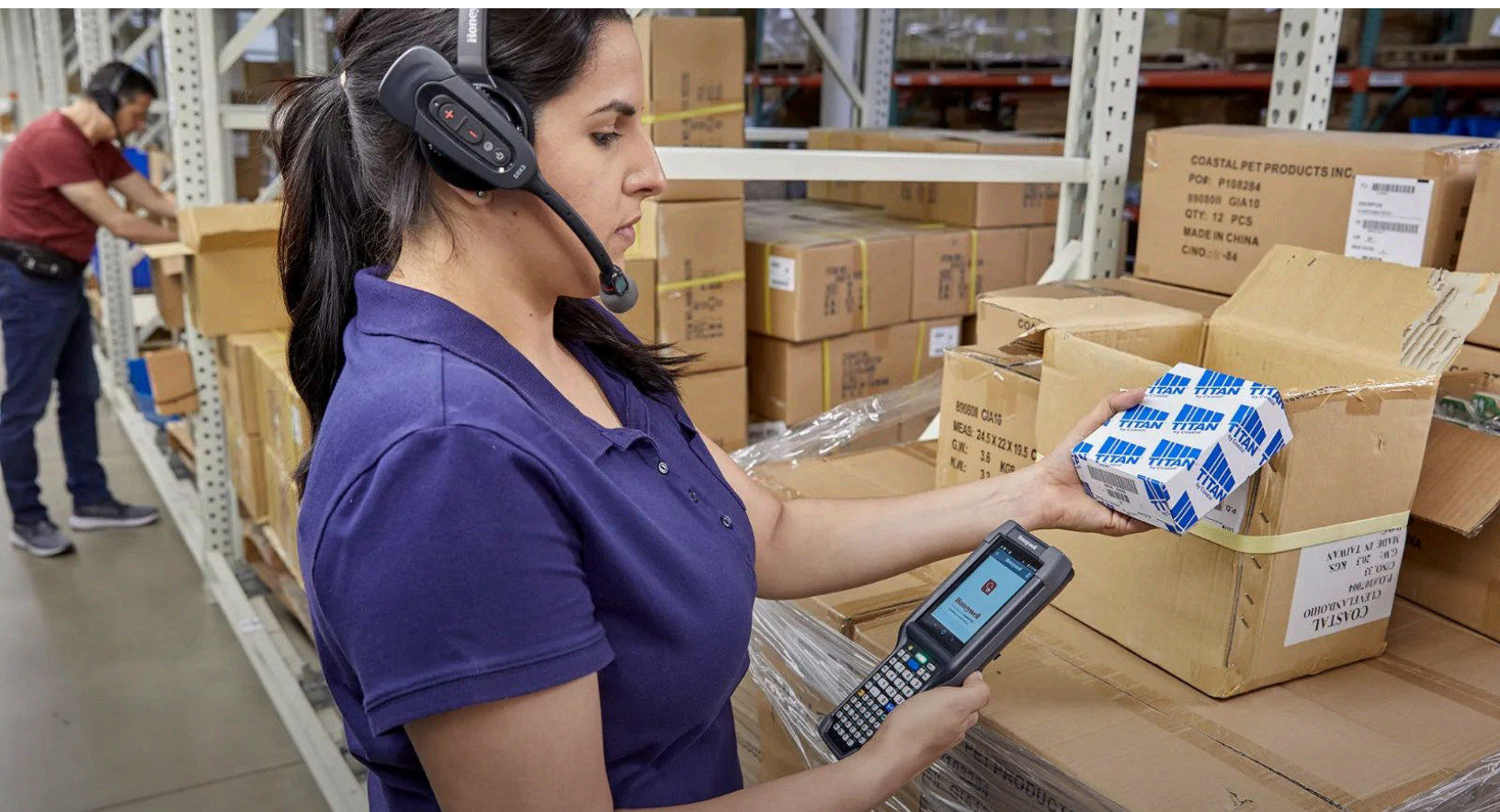
An EDI interface for trading partners, and on premise, SQL queries and reports in Microsoft Office.

06

Your choice of deployment

Cloud or on premise. provisionwms.com sets out the pros and cons of each for IT.

Sources: provisionwms.com, fetched July 2026, and customer reviews shown on that site (cards 02, 03 and 05).



INTEGRATIONS

Systems it connects to today

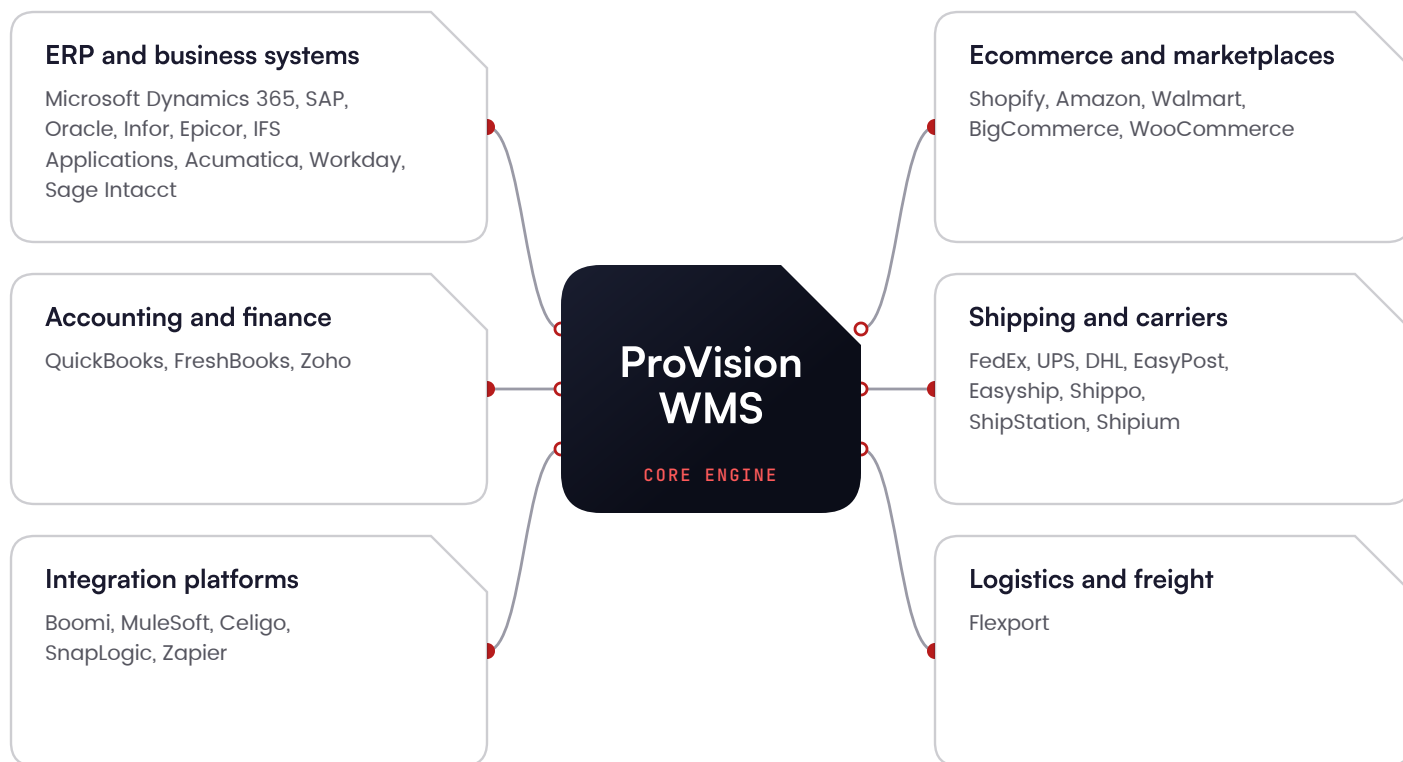
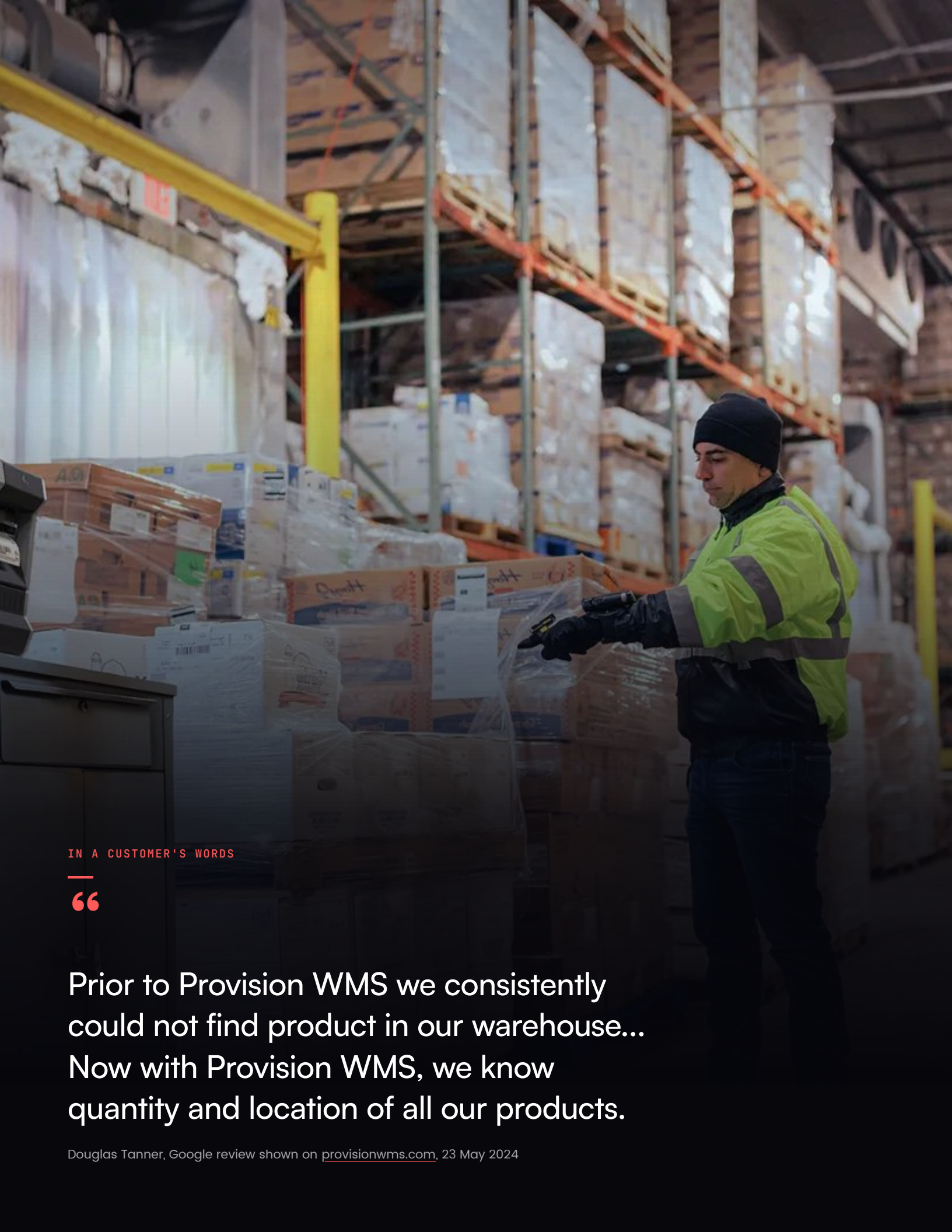


FIGURE 4. NAMED INTEGRATIONS LISTED ON [PROVISIONWMS.COM/WAREHOUSE-INTEGRATIONS](https://provisionwms.com/warehouse-integrations), PAGE DATED OCTOBER 2025. NEW INTEGRATIONS ARE ADDED OVER TIME, SO ASK ABOUT ANY SYSTEM NOT LISTED.





IN A CUSTOMER'S WORDS

“

Prior to Provision WMS we consistently could not find product in our warehouse... Now with Provision WMS, we know quantity and location of all our products.

Douglas Tanner, Google review shown on [provisionwms.com](https://www.provisionwms.com), 23 May 2024



CHAPTER 3 OF 4

03

Building the business case

A business case for a WMS rests on your own numbers. This chapter gives a method and one worked example, clearly labelled as illustrative.

Four steps to a case you can defend

- 1. Measure where you are**
Record average inventory value, picking and shipping errors, time spent finding material, and the cost of your warehouse space. Use a recent twelve month period.
- 2. Price each benefit with a formula**
Write every benefit as a formula with inputs anyone can check, such as inventory value times the reduction you expect times your carrying rate.
- 3. Count the full cost**
Include subscription or licence fees, implementation services, scanners and printers, and your own staff time. A price sheet is published at provisionwms.com.
- 4. List what you cannot price**
Happier customers and fewer rushed orders matter. If you cannot put a defensible figure on them, list them beside the case rather than invent a number.

NEXT

The following pages apply this method to a hypothetical plant. Every input is an assumption, labelled as one.



ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE

A worked example, not a customer result

A hypothetical plant. Every input is an assumption chosen to show the method; replace each one with your own figure.

TABLE 1. ILLUSTRATIVE ANNUAL BENEFITS FOR A HYPOTHETICAL PLANT

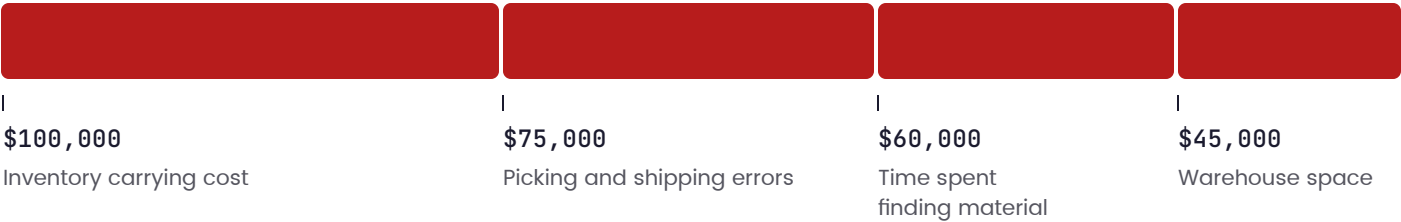
BENEFIT	ASSUMPTION	ANNUAL VALUE
Inventory carrying cost	\$2,000,000 average inventory, 20% lower, 25% carrying rate	\$100,000
Time spent finding material	10 handlers save 45 minutes a shift, 250 shifts, \$32 an hour	\$60,000
Picking and shipping errors	500 errors a year at \$250 each, 60% fewer	\$75,000
Warehouse space	20,000 sq. ft. at \$0.75 a month, 25% freed	\$45,000
Total annual benefit		\$280,000

Illustrative only. Carrying rate is the yearly cost of holding inventory as a share of its value. Benefits that cannot be priced are left out.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE

Where the annual benefit comes from

ANNUAL BENEFIT, \$280,000



AFTER THE SUBSCRIPTION



FIGURE 5. ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY, FROM TABLE 1. TOTAL \$280,000 A YEAR; \$220,000 AFTER THE SUBSCRIPTION.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE

What the example costs and returns

\$240,000

One-time cost: services \$120,000, scanners and printers \$40,000, staff time \$80,000

ASSUMPTION

13 months

Payback: \$240,000 over \$220,000 a year of benefit after the \$60,000 subscription

CALCULATED FROM TABLE 1

100%

Three-year return: \$420,000 net on \$420,000 of cost

CALCULATED FROM TABLE 1

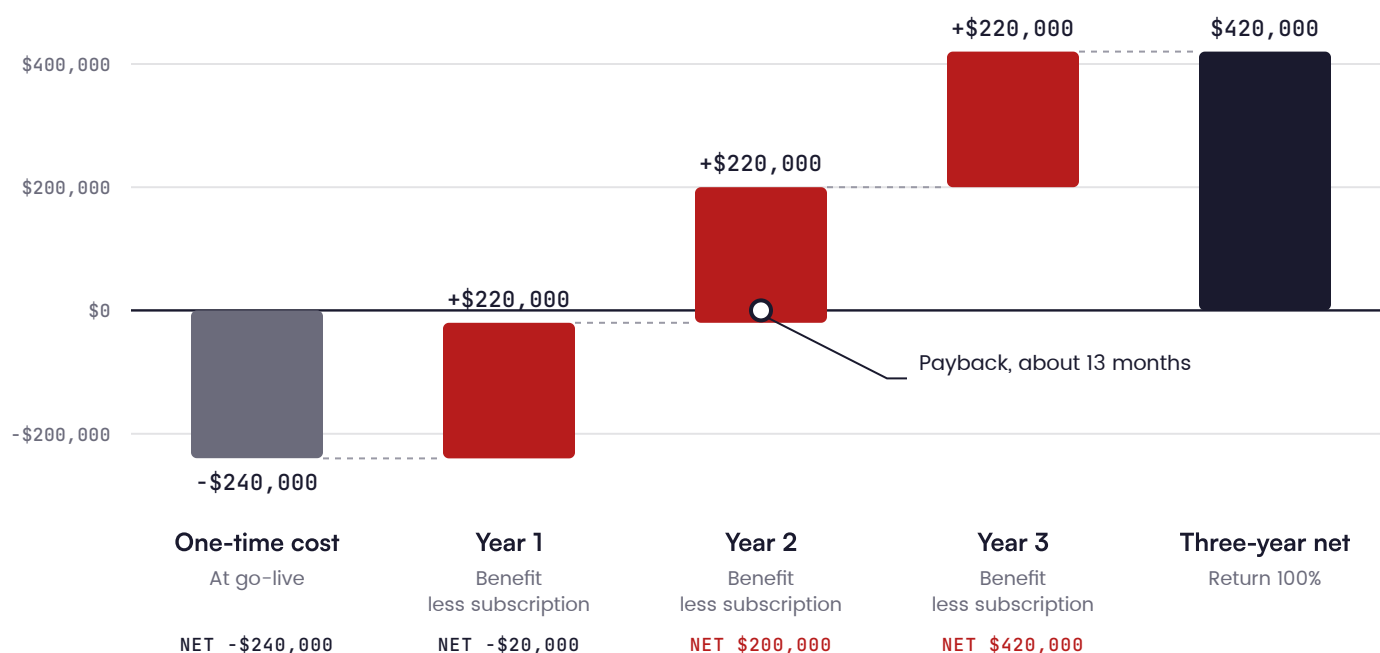


FIGURE 6. ILLUSTRATIVE WATERFALL, CALCULATED FROM TABLE 1. CUMULATIVE NET POSITION: -\$240,000 AT GO-LIVE, -\$20,000, \$200,000 AND \$420,000 AT THE END OF YEARS 1 TO 3.

Over three years the example returns \$840,000 in benefits against \$420,000 in costs: \$240,000 one-time plus three years of subscription at \$60,000.

Year one on its own shows a net cost of \$20,000, because the one-time costs land up front. From year two the plant keeps \$220,000 a year.

Method: return is net benefit divided by total cost over the same period. Payback is one-time cost divided by yearly benefit after the subscription, rounded to the nearest month. Assumes benefits start at go-live and accrue evenly.

BEFORE YOU ROLL OUT

A warehouse management system earns its keep where materials, orders and people meet: at receiving, at the pick face and at dispatch.



CHAPTER 4 OF 4

04

Rolling it out

A WMS rollout is a project for the floor and the office together. The phases that follow are a typical shape; your timeline comes from your own scope.

ROLLOUT

Four phases

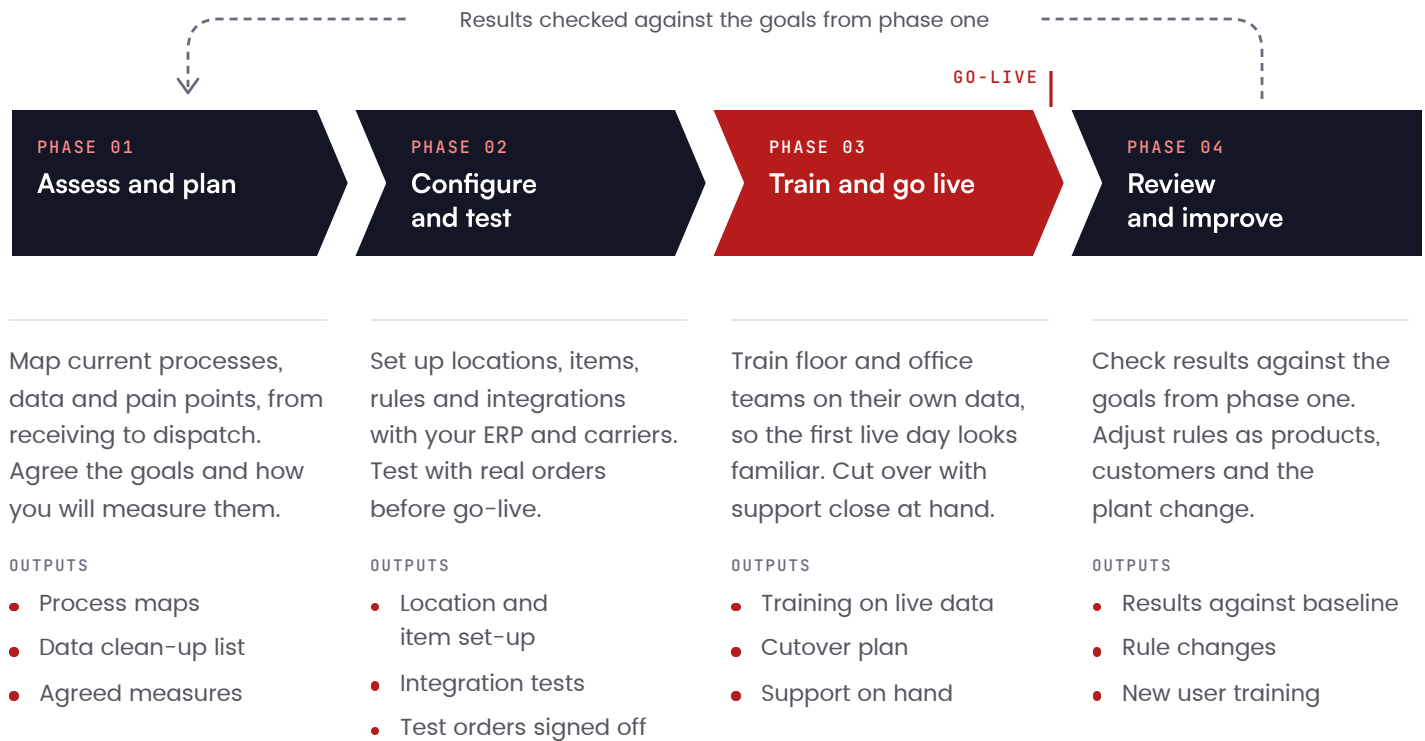


FIGURE 7. FOUR ROLLOUT PHASES. DURATIONS DEPEND ON SCOPE AND INTEGRATIONS; AHEARN & SOPER SETS THE TIMELINE WITH YOU DURING PHASE ONE.



WHAT HELPS

Six things that make a rollout work

01

An executive sponsor

One senior owner who clears obstacles and keeps the project funded and visible.

02

A cross-functional team

Warehouse, production, IT, finance and customer service at the same table from the start.

03

Clear success measures

Baseline figures captured before go-live, so improvement can be shown rather than assumed.

04

Attention to change

Explain the reasons to the people who scan, pick and ship, and listen to what they find.

05

Time for training

Hands-on practice before cutover, plus refreshers for new hires and new features.

06

Support after go-live

A plan for the first weeks after cutover, when questions and small fixes come fastest.



NEXT STEP

Talk to someone who has run a warehouse floor.

Bring your SKU count, your order profile and your list of systems. We will walk through what ProVision WMS would change on your floor and help you build the business case with your own numbers.

Talk to an expert

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