



## Racking Protection: **Ensuring Safety and Efficiency in Warehouse Operations**

Efficient and secure warehouse operations rely heavily on racking protection systems, which prevent warehouse racking from damage due to various factors such as overloading and forklift collisions. Damage to racking can lead to costly repairs, disruptions to operations, and, in the worst case, injuries to workers and damage to other equipment.

# Introduction

This whitepaper provides an overview of racking protection systems, best practices for implementing these systems in warehouses, and examples of successful implementations. By understanding the importance of racking protection and learning how to effectively implement these systems, warehouses can improve their operations and reduce the risk of damage and disruptions.



## Barrier Group

Barrier Group is a leading provider of warehouse safety and asset protection solutions. We offer a broad range of products that are designed to meet the specific needs of warehouse facilities: from safety barriers and bollards to traffic management systems and warehouse specific asset security, Barrier Group has a product to meet every requirement, all manufactured to a high standard. The result is a comprehensive range of products that are effective, durable, and designed to ensure the safety and security of employees, assets, and facilities.

In this whitepaper, we will provide an overview of the various types of racking protection systems and their key features and benefits. We will also discuss best practices for selecting and installing racking protection systems, as well as tips for maintaining and monitoring these systems to ensure their ongoing effectiveness. Additionally, we will provide case studies of warehouses that have successfully implemented racking protection systems, highlighting the benefits and results achieved.

Racking protection systems are an essential component of safe and efficient warehouse operations. By understanding the different types of racking protection systems and implementing these systems in accordance with best practices, warehouses can protect their racking, reduce the risk of damage and disruptions, and improve their overall operations.

# Overview of Racking Protection Systems Trends

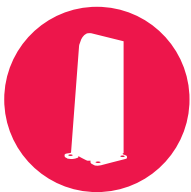
Racking protection systems are designed to prevent damage to warehouse racking, which can be caused by a range of factors including forklift collisions and overloading. Damage to racking can lead to costly repairs, disruptions to operations, and, in the worst case, injuries to workers and damage to other equipment. By implementing racking protection systems, warehouses can reduce the risk of damage to their racking and improve the safety and efficiency of their operations.

There are several types of racking protection systems available, each designed to address specific risks and provide specific benefits. Some common types of racking protection systems include:



## Column Cushions

**Column cushions:** Column cushions are protective barriers that are installed around the columns of warehouse racking. These cushions are typically made of durable materials such as reinforced plastic and are designed to absorb the impact of a forklift collision or other impact. Column cushions can prevent damage to the racking column, which can cause the entire racking system to collapse if left unrepaired. Column Cushions (SKU: CC610 and CC870) produced by Barrier Group offers the unique advantage of being foam-filled. The foam dramatically increases impact protection and helps the column cushion return to shape after impact.



## Racking Leg Brackets

**Racking leg brackets:** Bull-Dog Brackets (SKU: BDB) produced by Barrier Group cover all corners of racking leg protection. Standard front facing brackets, positioned, and installed in front of racking legs, take the impact of forklifts and pallets being positioned into place. Corner brackets help protect both the front and side of exposed racking legs, while rear brackets safeguard the rear legs when pallets and goods are being moved into a storage position.



## Pallet Racking End Guard

**Pallet racking end guard:** Rack end guards are barrier lengths installed at the ends of pallet racking to prevent the racking from being hit by forklifts or other warehouse vehicles. These barriers are typically made of durable materials such as steel or reinforced plastic and are designed to withstand the impact of a forklift collision. Rack end guards can prevent damage to the racking and the surrounding area, as well as protecting workers from injury. Barrier Group's Menni Racking End Guards (SKU: MRP2200) and Bump Rail (SKU: BR165A-Y) are both easy to install and designed and manufactured to ensure longevity.

In addition to these specific types of racking protection systems, there are also a number of other features and benefits that are common to many racking protection systems. Some of these key features and benefits include:

**Compatibility:** Racking protection systems are typically designed to be compatible with a wide range of racking systems and equipment. This means that warehouses can install these systems on their existing racking without the need for major modifications or replacements. Compatibility can save warehouses time and money, as they can continue to use their existing racking while adding additional protection.

**Durability:** Racking protection systems are typically made of durable materials that are designed to withstand the demands of warehouse operations. This means that these systems are less likely to be damaged by impacts or other forces and can continue to provide protection for an extended period of time. Durability can help warehouses to reduce the frequency and cost of repairs and replacements.

**Visibility:** Many racking protection systems are designed to be highly visible, with bright colours and reflective materials. This can help to improve safety in the warehouse, as workers and equipment operators are more likely to notice the protection systems and avoid collisions or other accidents. Visibility can also help to remind workers of the importance of racking protection and encourage them to take care when working near racking.

**Ease of installation and maintenance:** Racking protection systems are typically designed to be easy to install and maintain. This can help warehouses to quickly and easily add protection to their racking without the need for specialized tools or expertise. Additionally, many racking protection systems are designed to be easily adjustable or replaceable, allowing warehouses to make adjustments or repairs as needed.

**Customisation:** Many racking protection systems are customisable, allowing warehouses to select the specific components and configurations that best meet their needs. This can include choosing the materials, colours, and sizes of the protection systems, as well as the specific locations where they are installed. Customisation can help warehouses to create a racking protection system that is tailored to their specific operations and needs.

*Overall, racking protection systems are an essential component of safe and efficient warehouse operations. By understanding the different types of racking protection systems and the key features and benefits they offer, warehouses can select the systems that best meet their needs and implement them in a way that improves safety and efficiency. By using racking protection systems, warehouses can reduce the risk of damage to their racking, protect their workers and equipment, and improve their overall operations.*

# Best Practices For Implementing Racking Protection In Warehouses

**Implementing racking protection in warehouses is an important step in ensuring the safety and efficiency of warehouse operations. By following best practices for implementing racking protection systems, warehouses can maximize the benefits of these systems and minimise the risks of damage and disruptions.**

One of the key best practices for implementing racking protection in warehouses is to conduct a thorough assessment of the warehouse and its racking. This assessment should include an evaluation of the types and amounts of goods that are stored in the warehouse, the types and sizes of the racking systems that are in use, and the potential risks that the warehouse faces. This assessment can help warehouses to

identify the specific types of racking protection systems that are most appropriate for their operations, as well as the specific locations where these systems should be installed.

Another best practice for implementing racking protection in warehouses is to involve all relevant stakeholders in the process. This can include warehouse managers, workers, and equipment operators, as well as any third-party consultants or vendors that may be involved in the implementation process. By involving all relevant stakeholders, warehouses can ensure that everyone understands the importance of racking protection and is committed to implementing these systems effectively.

Once the assessment and planning processes are complete, warehouses can begin the process of selecting and installing racking protection systems. This process should be carefully planned and executed to ensure that the systems are installed correctly and in a timely manner. Some key best practices for selecting and installing racking protection systems include:

## 1<sup>st</sup> Phase

Working with a trusted vendor like Barrier Group who has experience in installing racking protection systems, to ensure that the systems are installed correctly and in accordance with relevant regulations and standards.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase

Testing the racking protection systems before and after installation, to ensure that they are functioning properly and providing the desired level of protection.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase

Providing training to warehouse workers and equipment operators on the proper use and maintenance of the racking protection systems, to ensure that they are used effectively and kept in good working condition.

Once the racking protection systems are installed, it is important for warehouses operators to monitor and maintain these systems on an ongoing basis. This can help to ensure that the systems continue to provide the desired level of protection and can prevent damage and disruptions that could result from faulty or neglected systems. Some best practices for maintaining and monitoring racking protection systems include:

### Inspection

Regularly inspecting the racking protection systems to identify any signs of wear or damage and taking appropriate action to repair or replace any faulty components.

### Visual Aids

Using visual aids such as signage or markings to remind workers and equipment operators of the presence and importance of the racking protection systems, and to encourage safe and careful use of these systems.

### Plan

Regularly reviewing and updating the warehouse's racking protection plan, to ensure that it remains relevant and effective in the face of changing conditions or risks.

### Records

Keeping records of inspections, repairs, and other maintenance activities related to the racking protection systems, to provide a history of the systems' performance and to identify any potential trends or issues that may need to be addressed.

Overall, implementing racking protection in warehouses is an important step in ensuring the safety and efficiency of these operations. By following best practices for assessment, planning, installation, and maintenance, warehouses can maximise the benefits of racking protection systems and reduce the risks of damage and disruptions. By taking these steps, warehouses can protect their workers, equipment, and operations, and improve their overall performance.



# Case Studies



## *Melbourne Logistics Company*

One example of a warehouse that has successfully implemented asset protection is a large distribution centre in Melbourne, Australia operated by a logistics provider. This warehouse acts as a transit point for a wide range of consignments. In order to protect the building and improve the safety and efficiency of its operations, the warehouse implemented a comprehensive range of Barrier Group column cushions.

Since implementing the asset protection system, the Melbourne warehouse has experienced a number of benefits. The warehouse has seen a significant reduction in the number of incidents involving damage to columns, which has reduced the need for costly repairs and disruptions to operations. Additionally, the warehouse has experienced an improvement in the safety of its workers and equipment, as the protection systems have prevented injuries and damage.



### *National Electrical Distributor*

Another example of a warehouse that has successfully implemented racking protection is a national electrical distributor with sites around Australia. This operator specialises in the distribution of electrical trade items, and handles a high volume of items. In order to protect its racking and improve the efficiency of its operations, the operator has implemented a full system of Barrier Group's Bull-Dog racking protection system.

The racking protection system at the distribution centres includes column guards, corner guards and aisle protectors. The operator worked closely with Barrier Group to design and install a system that was tailored to the specific layout and needs of each distribution centre.

Since implementing the racking protection system, the operator has experienced a number of benefits including an increase in the speed and accuracy of its order fulfillment operations, as the racking protection systems have reduced the risk of damage and disruptions. Additionally, the distribution centres have experienced improved worker safety, as the racking protection systems have prevented injuries and accidents.

These case studies illustrate the benefits and results that can be achieved through the implementation of racking protection systems in warehouses. By implementing these systems in accordance with best practices, warehouses can protect their racking, reduce the risk of damage and disruptions, and improve the safety and efficiency of their operations. By taking these steps, warehouses can ensure that their racking is protected and that their operations are as safe and efficient as possible.



# Final Thoughts

In conclusion, racking protection systems are an essential component of safe and efficient warehouse operations. By understanding the different types of racking protection systems and implementing these systems in accordance with best practices, warehouses can protect their racking, reduce the risk of damage and disruptions, and improve their overall operations.

Racking protection systems can provide a wide range of benefits, including improved worker safety, reduced repair and replacement costs, and improved efficiency and productivity. By investing in these systems, warehouses can ensure that their racking is protected and that their operations are as safe and efficient as possible.

Overall, the implementation of racking protection systems is a crucial step for warehouses that are looking to improve the safety and efficiency of their operations. By understanding the importance of racking protection and following best practices for implementing these systems, warehouses can protect their racking, reduce the risk of damage and disruptions, and improve their overall operations.





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