

Complete warehouse and distribution centre

# Graham's Bodycare



# New warehouse and distribution centre boosts productivity by 70%



Graham Blackledge, co-founder and Managing Director of Graham's Bodycare, is enthusiastic about the substantial improvement in efficiency brought about by the new distribution centre:

*"I had known about Univeyor for some years and I was confident that they could help me achieve the high levels of efficiency needed to support our ongoing and future operations. Many of the Univeyor features were innovative and it is good to see our plans and suggestions now installed and working."*

## **About Graham's Bodycare**

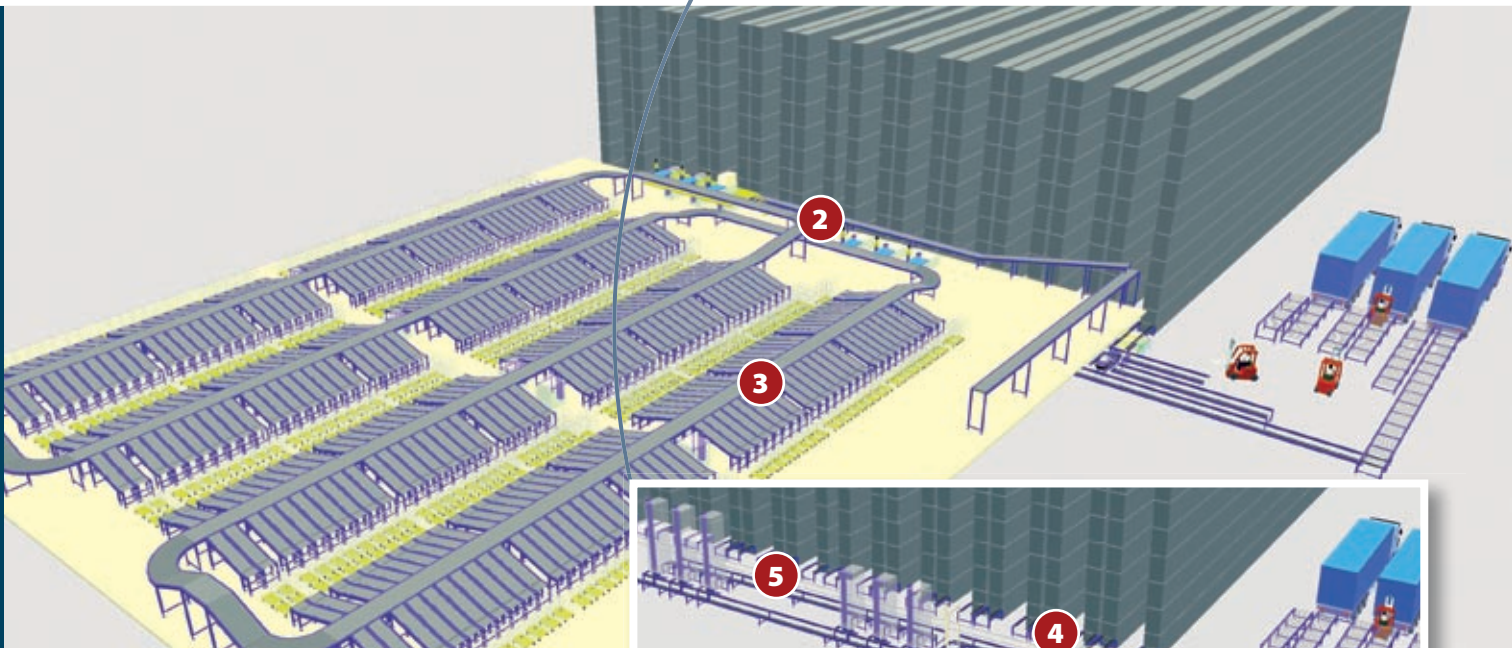
Univeyor has helped boost productivity by 70% with the design and installation of a versatile automated handling system into a new purpose-built warehouse and distribution centre at Chorley, Lancashire for Graham's Bodycare.

Graham's operates 200 stores throughout the UK, trading under the Bodycare name, which sell an extensive range of toiletries, health care products and perfumes.

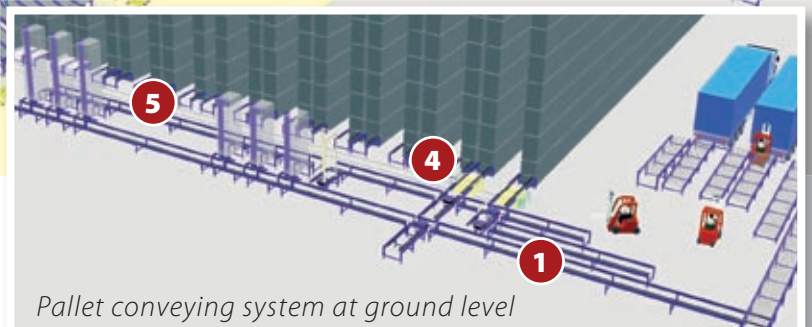
## **Working day reduced from 16 hours to 8 hours**

The previous warehouse operation involved the manual picking of products throughout a 16-hour working day. The increased efficiency provided by the Univeyor system has enabled the working day to be reduced to 8 hours whilst maintaining the same throughput.

# Complete logistics solution - ready for growth



*Picking and sorting system on 1st floor*



*Pallet conveying system at ground level*

## **Univeyor as main contractor**

The system delivered by Univeyor manages the entire flow - from pallet goods receipt, pallet loop and pallet elevators to 6 sorter induct stations on the first mezzanine floor connected to the 400 chute cross-belt sorter. A high-bay store gives 11,000 pallet locations and a double transfer car provides "the link" between storage and pallet loop. The conveying system and the Warehouse Management System (WMS) integrate to control the entire process.

## **From pallet goods receipt directly to order picking, sorting and despatch**

The main part of pallets are received "just-in-time", and conveyed via pallet elevators to the sorter induct stations on the first mezzanine floor. The required items are then picked according to order from the WMS and subsequently sorted on the 400 chute cross-belt sorter to the designated despatch destination.

# Efficient logistics - from goods receipt to despatch



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## **Goods receipt / pallet loop**

*Palletised goods are received from suppliers. Once a pallet has been checked and input to the Graham's WMS, it is fed onto accumulating conveyors to be transported via pallet elevators to one of six sorter induct stations on the first mezzanine floor. At the same time, the WMS sends the allocation instructions to the sorter.*

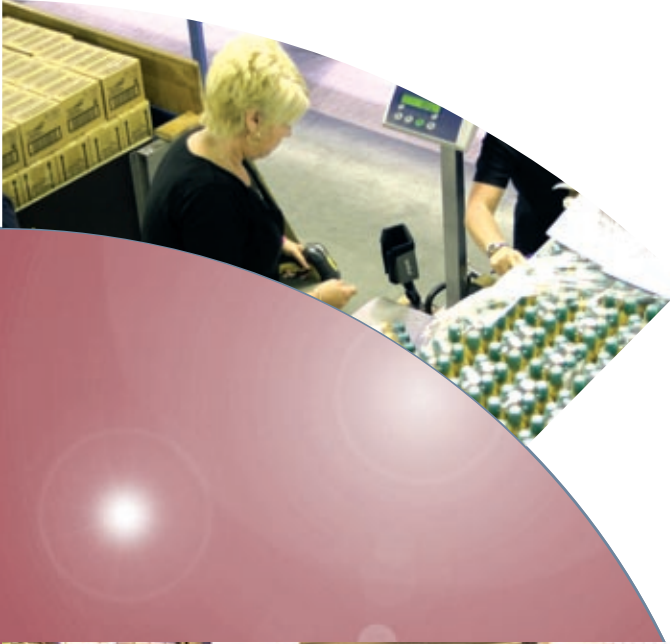
## **Induction to sorter belt**

*At the induct station, an operator check weighs the product and scans its barcode to enable the sorter to identify the product and confirm that the pack weight is within its limits. A successful "scan and weigh" illuminates a green light to indicate the product can be inducted. Once the required amount has been inducted, a red light illuminates to tell the operator to stop inducting.*

## **Cross-belt sorting**

*The cross-belt sorter provides sortation of 7200 items per hour feeding to 400 chutes with 2 chutes per store.*

*The sorted items are assembled into roll cages. Finished roll cages are bar code scanned and taken to the ground floor via a goods lift for order collation and despatch.*



*An operator check weighs the product and scans its barcode to enable the sorter to identify the product*



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#### **Double transfer car**

*Partly-picked pallets are returned to ground level by the elevator and transferred automatically onto a double shuttle car running on fixed rails.*

*The shuttle car then delivers the pallet to the designated aisle where one of the VNA fork lifts is operating. The fork lift collects the pallet and places it in an available storage location within the racking.*

#### **Pallet high-bay storage**

*The high-bay primarily stores partly-picked pallets returned from picking stations, but also contains full pallets received directly from goods receipt for later picking.*

*Pallets from stock are placed on an outward pick-up and delivery (P&D) station at the end of the aisle. From there the shuttle car takes the pallet and feeds it on to the pallet loop to be transported to the sorter induct stations.*

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