



Lean TQM Toolbox – Workplace Organisation & Housekeeping Tools

The 5S Methodology

5S is a workplace organization method that involves assessing everything present in a space, removing what's unnecessary, organizing things logically, performing housekeeping tasks, and keeping this cycle going. Organize, clean, repeat

5S stands for five Japanese words: Seiri (Sort), Seiton (Set in order), Seisō (Shine), Seiketsu (Standardise), and Shitsuke (Sustain)

L) Sort

Determine what needs to be present and what can be removed

- What is the purpose of this item?
- When was this item last used?
- How frequently is it used?
- Who uses it?
- Does it really need to be here?

A workspace is better without unnecessary items.

The best people to assess the items in a space are the people who work in that space

2) Set in Order

Orderly storage so the right item can be picked efficiently at the right time, & easy to access

- Identify and allocate a place for all the materials needed for your work
- Assign fixed places and fixed quantity
- Make it compact
- Place heavy objects at a height where they are easy to pick from
- Decide how things should be put away, and obey those rules

3) Shine

Clean the work area, so problems can be easily identified

- Identify root causes, and correct process
- Only one work activity on a workspace at any given time
- Keep tools and equipment clean and in top condition
- Cleanliness should be a daily activity
- Use chart with initials to show that action has taken place
- Ensure proper lighting

4 Standardise

Standardise the best practice within the workplace

- Standardise through 'visual management'
- Make abnormalities visible to management
- Keep each area consistent with one another
- Standards make it easy to move workers into different areas
- Create process with defined roles and responsibilities
- Make it easy for everyone to identify the state of normal or abnormal conditions

5) Sustain

Implementing behaviors and habits to maintain the established standards over the long term

- Toughest phase is to Sustain
- Establish and maintain responsibilities – requires leader commitment to follow through
- Every one sticks to the rules and makes it a habit
- Participation of everyone in developing good habits and buy-in
- Regular audits and reviews
- Get to root cause of issues

Benefits include;

- Reduced costs
- ✓ Higher quality
- ✓ Increased productivity
- ✓ Greater employee satisfaction
- A safer work environment

