

Pedestrian Rack Tunnel

SAFETY WITHOUT SACRIFICE: TURNING RACK SPACE INTO A PEDESTRIAN SAFE ZONE

Background

Robert Dietrick Company (RDC) recently opened a new warehouse in Indianapolis to support its growing operations.

The project posed a common but complex challenge: maximizing rack storage density within a limited footprint while ensuring a safe transition for pedestrians moving from the office into a busy warehouse with active forklifts and overhead loads.

Rather than sacrificing valuable floor space for pedestrian aisles, RDC sought a solution that maintained storage capacity, improved safety, and aligned with operational and brand standards.

The Challenge

- **Limited floor space**
- **Pedestrian safety:** People regularly move between the office and warehouse, requiring a clearly defined and protected transition area.
- **Operational continuity:** Multiple doorways along the partition wall had to remain fully accessible without obstruction from rack components.
- **Aesthetic consistency:** All racking needed to match existing equipment and RDC's brand colors.
- **Durability and protection:** The solution had to shield pedestrians from hazards in an active warehouse environment.



PEDESTRIAN RACK TUNNEL



KEY FEATURES

Integrated Pedestrian Rack Tunnel

A purpose-built racking system that combines high-density storage with a fully guarded pedestrian corridor between the office and warehouse.

No Floor Space Trade-Off

Pedestrian protection is integrated into the rack footprint, preserving warehouse storage capacity.

Overhead and Side Protection

Solid decking and structural rack components shield pedestrians from forklifts and falling objects.

Controlled Access Gates

Default-closed swing gates maintain protection while allowing authorized, PPE-equipped personnel to exit the area safely.

Custom Layout

Rack placement maintains clear access to multiple doorways along the office/warehouse partition wall.

Brand-Matched Design

Custom finishes align with RDC branding and existing facility equipment.

Durable Construction

Heavy-duty components built for long-term performance in active warehouse environments.

Clear Installation Documentation

Detailed drawings supported efficient installation by RDC's internal team.

Scalable Concept

The design can be adapted for other facilities with similar constraints.



THE SOLUTION

RDC partnered with Speedrack Products Group to design and implement a custom Pedestrian Rack Tunnel: a fully integrated racking and safety solution engineered to address both space constraints and pedestrian protection within an existing live warehouse environment.

Rather than treating safety as an add-on or sacrificing valuable floor space for a traditional pedestrian aisle, the solution incorporated pedestrian guarding directly into the racking system itself.

This approach transformed what could have been a high-risk transition area into a functional, visually clean, and highly durable feature of the facility. The Pedestrian Rack Tunnel provides a clearly defined, protected pathway for office staff, customers, vendors, and visitors while simultaneously supporting high-density storage above and alongside the corridor.

The result is a solution where safety, storage efficiency, and aesthetics work together, proving that engineered protection can enhance both operational performance and the overall look of the warehouse.

