



# 50 lean visuals

For improving productivity  
and safety in your lean facility

## **The pocketbook of lean visuals**

If you're reading this, you're probably looking for new ways to make your facility more visual. And you're smart for doing so! Companies that incorporate lean visuals throughout their facility are proven to have higher productivity, reduced waste, and improved safety.

Visuals are also essential to sustaining the success of your lean manufacturing initiatives. They reinforce the standards you put in place, and help your staff and employees detect abnormalities at a glance.

### **In this pocketbook...**

We'll show you 50 tried-and-true ways to effectively use visuals throughout your facility. Use these examples to get started creating your own visuals — and take the first steps to transforming your facility into a visual workplace!



**Workplace organization  
visuals (5S)**

#7



## Vehicle traffic lanes and pedestrian walkways

In a busy plant, controlling the flow of people and vehicles is an important safety concern. Marking your permanent aisles and passageways is not just a good practice - it is an OSHA requirement (see OSHA CFR 1910.176).



## Traffic intersections

In addition to marking lanes, use precautionary signals or floor signs at intersections where people and vehicle traffic unavoidably meet.

# #3



## Storage locations (use border lines and labels)

Border lines (e.g. striping or border marking tapes) delineate the space allocated and make it easy to identify when something is missing. But by themselves, they can't ensure that the correct items will be returned to their proper place. That's why you also need labels: a label for the border area and one for the object itself (see #4).



## Label items as well as borders

Any items stored should also have a label on the item itself that provides information about its storage location. This label can be cross-referenced with the label on the storage location border, as mentioned in #3.

# #5



## “Keep clear” areas

Brady recommends using striped tape to mark areas that need to be kept clear. The stripes demand attention and help enforce compliance. Diagonal lines inside the border can also be included for additional visual impact.





## “In use” and “out of use” storage locations

Do you have an item that is stored in one place while it's being used, and another when it's not in use? Differentiate the two using different tape or label colors.

# #7



## High traffic storage areas

Floor areas that experience heavy traffic (e.g. dragging skids or pallets) should be marked with corner marks and dashed lines instead of traditional floor tape:

- Less chance that a corner mark or dash will be hit
- Easier to replace one corner or dash than to replace the whole line!



**2" Wood Screw**  
**Phillips Flat Head**  
**Part #12345**

## Stocking fixtures

Mark your shelves, flow racks, totes, and other stocking fixtures with industrial labels that are large enough to read at a glance. To help employees locate items faster and reduce mistakes, make sure your visuals include:

- A brief description
- The part number or bar code
- Symbols and pictograms

#9



## Frequently re-organized storage areas

Change is one of the only constants in lean. If you have storage areas that are regularly re-organized or re-arranged, use magnets or labels with repositionable adhesive.



## Front and back of flow racks

Always mark the front of a flow rack, as this helps reduce picking errors by the person using the parts. It's also important to mark the back of a flow rack to ensure that material handlers put parts in the right place when replenishing stock.

# #11



## Tool shadows

Use shadow board tool tape to create a shadow of your tool on your toolboard. Above each tool shadow, use a label to show the name or identification number of the tool. To expedite work and reduce motion, you can also store tools right next to machines or equipment using hooks, holders and magnets.



## Color coded shadow boards

Are your tools hard to find, causing wasted time between shift changes? Shadow boards have clear, instructive visuals to store tools and equipment at the point of need. By just glancing at the board, workers can tell that each tool is in the right place.

# #13



## Inside and outside of drawers, cabinets and toolboxes

All drawers, cabinets, toolboxes, and other organizers should be marked on the outside to clearly indicate what is contained within.

Also mark the inside of your storage compartments to clearly identify where each item is properly stored. Use foam cutouts or anti-slip mats to prevent the items from rolling around and shifting in the drawers.





## Remove cabinet doors

Consider removing your cabinet doors or replacing them with open shelving to make the contents more visible. This encourages employees to keep cabinets organized. Some companies even put angled “roofs” on cabinets to ensure that items are not inappropriately stored on top.

# #15



## Rejects or materials on hold for QA

Mark parts and products that need to be inspected, or that have been inspected and have been rejected as defective. Brady recommends using the color orange to indicate that inspection is needed before use; red can be used to indicate if the product has been rejected.

ON CAMERAS

THIS AREA IS UNDER VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

NAME	DATE OUT	DATE EXPECTED BACK	CAMERA# OR SS CART#	RETURNED DATE	BATTERY CHARGED ✓
Clark	8-15		TRIP00		
Tim Z	12-13	12-14	Printer 2		
MACH.	3/6	3/6	#4	3/6	
Debb with coc	4/5	?	(KAIZEN AREA) SS CART#1		
	1/10	1/17	SS CART		
for printer	1/30	?	PRINTER		
			KAIZEN AREA SS CART#2		

CHARGED BATTERIES

CHARGED BATTERIES

## 5S supplies checkout board

5S often involves equipment that is shared between departments or work areas (e.g. cameras, label printers, etc.). You may find it beneficial to have a sign-out board for 5S supplies; it controls usage and ensures that all supplies can be quickly located when they are needed.



## Production and inventory control visuals

Also called material pull or kanban visuals

**MAX: DO NOT EXCEED**

## Maximum level indicators

Visuals can reinforce stock limits and highlight overstock situations. It can help you avoid unnecessarily high inventory levels, which tie up capital that could be used more efficiently elsewhere.

# #18



## Minimum level indicators

Visuals can also show the point at which stock should be reordered. If the stock falls beneath the green line, employees know that they need to reorder to ensure that replacement stock can be delivered before they run out.



## Tri-color material pull indicators

Tri-color indicators can be used to indicate when stock is beginning to get low. They provide advanced warning to material handlers that restocking will be needed soon. In this example:

- Green signals a healthy stock
- Yellow provides a warning that the stock is getting low
- Red indicates that resupply is needed immediately



## Batter's boxes and FIFO lanes

Lines and boxes can help sequence work with batter's boxes and FIFO (first in, first out) lanes.

**Batter's box:** a storage area next to a machine where the “next-up” product should be stored.

**FIFO lanes:** visuals that mark the staging spots in a lane of work. The number of staging spots also indicates the maximum amount of WIP that can be stored, which helps prevent overproduction.



**KANBAN CARD**  
Y211370  
507/93, YEL, 1.53"

**PEP KANBAN CARD**

- MATERIAL: Y211370  
DESCRIPTION: B507/93, YEL, 1.53"  
QUANTITY: 3000 YDS REORDER POINT: 500 YDS
1. When inventory reaches reorder point, remove card from shelf and send replenishment email to PEP\_KANBAN.
  2. Once material is received in, place material in proper location and replace card on shelf

## Kanban cards

Kanban systems not only control inventory, but also make the reordering process more visual and efficient. Kanban cards (e.g. tags or magnets) can include product descriptions and ordering information, depending on the need.



## Kanban labels on bins

Do you use a two-bin system to control inventory and re-ordering? Place labels on the outside of the bins to communicate information.

In this example, the empty bin is taken back to the central inventory area for replenishment. Parts do not need to be packed into intermediate transport containers or placed into other storage bins for the production line. (No more lost kanban cards!)



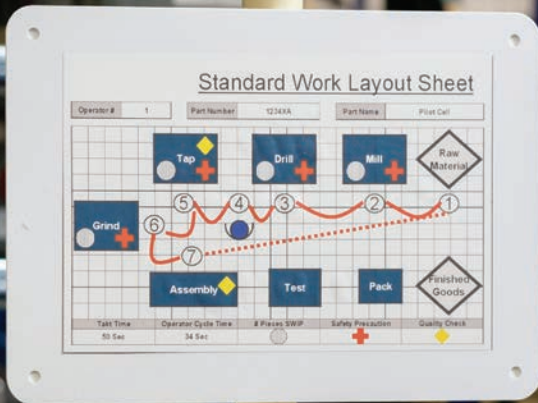
## Job scheduling boards with time calculations

Displays can be used to visually sequence job orders and indicate work delays or missed deadlines. In this example, the display visually outlines the following information for employees and supervisors:

- Days that jobs are scheduled to be performed
- Planned usage
- Available capacity



**Work instruction visuals**



## Dance charts

Post standard work flow diagrams or “dance charts” in the work area to help employees remember the proper task sequence based on the number of people assigned to the cell.

## TA-4 Preventative Maintenance Schedule:

	Frequency	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Verify proper orientation of safety devices	Daily														
Safety door switches	3rd shift	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR			DR	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR
	1st Shift	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR			FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR
Emergency Stop Pull Buttons	3rd shift	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR			DR	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR
	1st Shift	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR			FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR
Pneumatic Safety Shutoff Valves	3rd shift	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR			DR	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR
	1st Shift	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR			FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR
Verify correct operation and adjustment of the following sensors, adjust and clean as needed:	Daily														
Cardstock out of material photo-eyes	1st Shift	GS	GS	GS	GS	FR			FR	GS	GS	GS	GS	GS	GS
Inner and outer tape sensors	2nd Shift	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR			FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR
Tube out of material photo-eyes	3rd shift	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR			DR	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR
Conveyor home sensors	1st Shift	GS	GS	GS	GS	FR			FR	GS	GS	GS	GS	GS	GS
Tube feed photo-eyes	2nd Shift	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR			FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR
Clean cardstock platform and splice tape tables	Daily/3rd Shift	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR			DR	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR
Check scrap tube bags, empty as needed	Daily/2nd Shift	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR			FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR
Check tube brushes, service as required	Daily/3rd Shift	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR			DR	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR
General machine housekeeping	Daily/1st Shift	GS	GS	GS	GS	FR			FR	GS	GS	GS	GS	GS	GS
Verify pneumatic pressure settings	Weekly/1st Shift	GS							FR	GS	GS	GS	GS	GS	GS
Inspect and clean nip rolls	Weekly/2nd Shift	FR							FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR
Clean and check vacuum conveyor belts	Weekly/3rd Shift	DR							DR	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR	DR
Check vacuum filter service as required	Weekly/1st Shift	GS							FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR
Check oil level / leaks in gear box	Monthly/2nd Shift	FR													
Check pneumatic filters. Service as needed	Monthly/NTJ Shift	GS													
Check placement pads for wear	Monthly/1st Shift	GS													
Clean camera lenses	Monthly/2nd Shift	FR													

## Schedules and check sheets

Schedules show which employees should be performing certain tasks — and when those tasks should be done. Check sheets can also be used to provide a visual indication that tasks are being completed.



## Procedures

If the steps associated with performing a task are challenging to follow, make sure you have detailed procedures available. Procedures should include:

- What the employee needs to do
- Order in which it should be done
- Amount of time it takes to do the task (or how frequently it should be done)
- Desired outcome

# #27



## One point lessons

If employees are struggling to remember one step in a procedure, consider creating a “one point” or “single point” lesson. A one point lesson is different from a typical procedure in that it focuses on one critical point.





## One point labels

One-point lessons are typically depicted as standard letter size documents. However, they are even more effective when you condense the critical information onto a label or set of labels. Then you can post the information right at the point of need — exactly where your employees can benefit from it.



## Equipment care visuals (TPM)



## Lube points

Mark lubrication points with a label that identifies the proper grease quantity and frequency. To ensure that the correct lubricant is used, consider also color coding the lube point label to match the label on the appropriate grease gun.

# #30



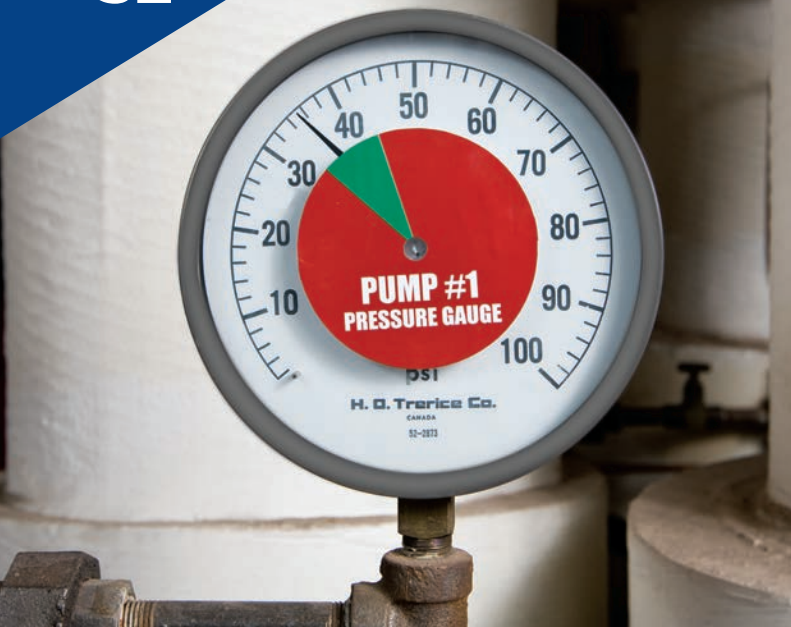
## Oil level indicators

Place a green and red striped label behind the oil sight tube to help operators quickly detect when oil levels are too high or too low. The optical properties of the oil cause the stripes to enlarge and deflect downward, making it easy to tell whether the amount of oil falls in the green “good-to-go” range.



## Drive tension guides

Drive tension guides help operators inspect for proper tension on the drive system. Using red and green color blocks, these visuals indicate when a chain or belt needs to be tightened or replaced.



## Gauge labels

Adding a simple gauge label enables any employee to easily detect abnormalities at a glance and at a distance. Without the label, only a trained inspector would know if the temperature or pressure setting is correct.



## Normal / safe state visuals

Visuals can indicate whether valves and air dumps are normally closed or open. These visuals help prevent accidents when employees are putting equipment into a safe working condition (or zero energy state).

# #34



## Predictive maintenance targets

It's essential that the location of your preventative maintenance readings remains consistent. The use of predictive maintenance targets ensures that vibration and ultrasound probes are positioned for maximum repeatability, regardless of who takes the reading.





**REPLACEMENT FILTER**  
**PART # 45H36E**  
**STORAGE LOCATION 3-P-21**

## **Replacement part visuals**

Roughly 25% of equipment downtime can be attributed to parts-related issues (identifying the correct part, looking for parts, ordering parts, etc). Much of this wasted time can be eliminated by placing labels on the equipment that clearly identify the correct replacement parts.



 EXPLOSIVE DUST AREA  
BEYOND THIS POINT

A yellow rectangular sign with a blue border. On the left is a black triangle containing a white explosion symbol. To the right of the symbol, the text "EXPLOSIVE DUST AREA" is written in bold black capital letters on the top line, and "BEYOND THIS POINT" is written in bold black capital letters on the bottom line.



 NO OPEN SPARKS  
BEYOND THIS POINT

A yellow rectangular sign with a blue border. On the left is a black circle containing a white flame symbol with a diagonal slash through it. To the right of the symbol, the text "NO OPEN SPARKS" is written in bold black capital letters on the top line, and "BEYOND THIS POINT" is written in bold black capital letters on the bottom line.



 CO<sub>2</sub> FIRE SUPPRESSION  
IN THIS AREA

A red rectangular sign with a white border. On the left is a white exclamation mark inside a black circle. To the right of the symbol, the text "CO<sub>2</sub> FIRE SUPPRESSION" is written in bold white capital letters on the top line, and "IN THIS AREA" is written in bold white capital letters on the bottom line.



 DUST MASK REQUIRED  
BEYOND THIS POINT

A white rectangular sign with a blue border. On the left is a blue circle containing a white silhouette of a person wearing a dust mask. To the right of the symbol, the text "DUST MASK REQUIRED" is written in bold blue capital letters on the top line, and "BEYOND THIS POINT" is written in bold blue capital letters on the bottom line.

**Safety visuals**



## Proper formatting of safety visuals

Safety visuals should always include:

- Name of hazard
- Magnitude of hazard
- Potential consequences
- Pictograms
- Instructions for avoiding hazard

Any text should be formatted with sentence caps and left justification for easy legibility.

#37



## Point-of-need safe work instructions

Hazard warnings and safe work instructions should be posted at the point of need — right where the hazard exists for your employees.



## **Safety and fire protection equipment visuals**

Firefighting equipment, eye wash stations, first aid stations, safety showers, and other safety equipment should be clearly marked with signage to help employees easily locate them throughout the facility.

#39



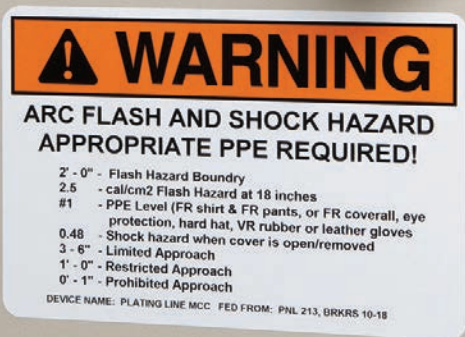
## Safety and fire protection equipment floor markings

Use red and white striped floor tape to mark off the areas in front of safety equipment and firefighting equipment that must be kept clear, per OSHA requirements.



## Hazardous areas or equipment

Use a black and yellow striped marking as a border around any area or piece of equipment where employees may be inadvertently exposed to a special hazard. The black and yellow border indicates that special caution should be exercised when entering and working in the area.



## Electrical equipment

All electrical equipment should also be marked with both shock and arc flash hazard warnings, as required by NFPA70E and the National Electric Code.





**Facility and  
process visuals**



## Wayfinding

Post direction or wayfinding signs throughout your facility to help people find their way around the building. Mark all of your rooms and offices with visual identifiers, and then post facility diagrams throughout your facility to help people pinpoint where they are.

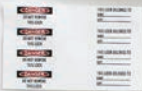


## Emergency egress markings

Your facility should have emergency egress markings to help people safely exit in the event of an emergency. According to IBC / IFC regulations, exits and exit access doors must be marked with approved exit signs. Egress pathways and stairwells should also have glow-in-the-dark markings to facilitate safe exits in dark “lights out” conditions.

# #44

# VOYAGER



HEC 5

U01-001-06

LAB AIR  
LAB AIR

LAB AIR  
LAB AIR

# 200# STEAM

## Production processes and work cells

All processes and work cells should be properly identified so everyone can easily understand the content and sequence of the work being performed. Visuals should include:

- The name of the area or cell
- What type of work is performed
- What type of product is produced
- The next upstream or downstream process (if applicable)

AIR COMPRESSOR #1

**ACP-1**

DISCONNECT: SWITCH 237 LOCATION: MECH ROOM 6

## Electrical disconnects

Every piece of equipment that is electrically-powered should be marked with a label that states the location of the disconnect switches or other energy isolating devices. This helps ensure that the equipment is properly de-energized before servicing, avoiding accidents and possibly even saving lives.

# #46a



## Pipe marking

While ANSI standards only require that the content and direction of flow be shown on pipemarkers, it can be useful to also indicate the source and destination points. This simplifies and expedites the process of tracing pipes through the facility when you need to shut down a specific section or process.



## Equipment identification

Visual devices should be placed directly onto your equipment to facilitate easy asset care and management. The benefits include:

- Asset tracking
- Clear direction when reporting problems (enabling maintenance people to readily know which machine to investigate)
- Better equipment histories (If maintenance and repair tasks are tracked, identifying the equipment ensures that the data is properly assigned.)



**Kaizen continuous  
improvement visuals**

















## LDM boards

Format your lean daily management boards to not only track metrics, but to also drive improvement! Consider maintaining 4 charts for each metric that is important to that area:

- Chart #1: A trend chart comparing actual metrics to goals over time (day, week, month, etc.).
- Chart #2: A living pareto chart, which includes issues that have been identified and the frequency of their occurrence so problems can be prioritized.
- Chart #3: A sheet that guides employees through root cause analysis and problem solving.
- Chart #4: An action plan spreadsheet that outlines existing countermeasures, along with their owners, due dates and statuses.

# KAIZEN IDEA BOARD

SAFETY IDEAS		OTHER IDEAS		EASY-HIGH IMPACT	HARD-HIGH IMPACT	P R I O R I T Y
						
						
						
ASSIGNED ACTIVITIES						
	TASK	LEADER	DUE	STATUS		
1	Update Exit signs	Tom S.	5/12	-Half of facility updated -Need more signs		
2	Teach new LOTO procedures	Rick	5/12	-In progress		
3	Floor tape	Sue L.	7/12	-ordered new floor tape.		

## Kaizen idea boards

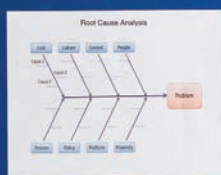
A kaizen idea board keeps employee suggestions and follow-up actions visible to both managers and employees. In this example, kaizen ideas are written on Post-It notes, placed in the large box on the left, and reviewed by managers at a regular time interval (i.e. every day, every week). They are prioritized using the 4-box block, and up to 3 ideas are acted upon at a time.

## Lean Problem Solving Board

## Problem Statement



## Root Cause Analysis



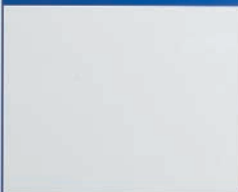
## Action Plan

Action Plan

Final Checklist for Performance Monitor External/Independent Service  
 Monitor each check-point Assessment and record by 100%

	1/15	1/16	1/17	1/18	1/19	1/20	1/21	1/22
1. All equipment is in good working order								
2. All equipment is properly maintained								
3. All equipment is properly calibrated								
4. All equipment is properly adjusted								
5. All equipment is properly inspected								
6. All equipment is properly cleaned								
7. All equipment is properly stored								
8. All equipment is properly used								
9. All equipment is properly disposed of								
10. All equipment is properly replaced								

## Results / Countermeasures



## A4 boards

A4s are documents that can assist with problem resolution. They document the root cause analysis and outline the countermeasures that were put in place to correct the problem. It can be very beneficial to display this type of information to promote visibility and input from a larger group.

# #50



## “Kaizen painted” equipment

Any time a piece of equipment is kaizened or improved, paint that item a different color. Over time, more and more equipment in your facility will be changed to the new color, dramatically highlighting the impact of the kaizen activity and reminding your team of the progress they’ve made over time.



## Learn more at: [BradyID.com/visualworkplace](https://bradyid.com/visualworkplace)

Visit our website for additional information on visual workplace, 5S workplace organization and other lean manufacturing initiatives.

You'll find a variety of other downloads that can help you with your lean journey, including:

- Articles
- Handbooks
- Webcasts
- And more!



## Brady printing solutions

The right printing solution can be essential to creating a visually instructive workplace. Whether it's a small handheld printer or a versatile benchtop printer, Brady has an easy-to-use visual solution to print signs, labels, tags and more onsite and on demand. Brady printers help create professional-quality visuals that are easy to read and consistent throughout the workplace.

**For more information: [BradyID.com/visualworkplace](https://bradyid.com/visualworkplace)**



## **Brady offers a variety of visual workplace products, including:**

**Signs:** Improve workplace communication and break down language barriers with bright colors, bold text and intuitive pictographs.

**ToughStripe® Floor Marking Tape:** ToughStripe Floor Tape is extremely durable and can withstand forklift traffic better than other tape-based marking solutions.

**Toolboards and workbench marking supplies:** Durable, self-adhesive vinyl sheets and tapes designed for a variety of non-floor applications.

**For more products:** [BradyID.com/visualworkplace](https://bradyid.com/visualworkplace)



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