

# Do I Need Barcode Scanners

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To determine whether you or your business will benefit from using barcode scanners, it is important to first assess and understand your needs. Many businesses will experience a dramatic increase in efficiency and success as a result of introducing barcode scanners to the workplace. Retail outlets will obviously benefit greatly from the use of barcode scanners, but other types of business owners will also find them very useful.

If you deal with a large number of items or goods, in a warehouse or video library for instance, barcode scanners may help you a great deal and make life a lot easier. A barcode scanner will enable you to more efficiently track and catalogue your stock. With a simple swipe over the barcode, the information will be relayed to a computer database, allowing you to keep track of sales or movement of items.

There are many different types of barcode scanners available, so you can easily find one to match your needs and requirements. Cordless handheld barcode scanners can be particularly useful and convenient for taking inventory of your stock, whereas a fixed mount scanner will prove particularly effective when used at a supermarket checkout counter. If you can visualize a situation in which barcode scanners would save you time and money, you almost certainly stand to benefit from their use.

Barcode scanning technology has been around for sometime but it still has the power to revolutionise the way you do business. As an effective way to maximise your business potential and efficiency, barcode scanners can't be beat. Simply decide which model of scanner is best for you, and start reaping the benefits.

**Different Types of Barcode Scanners:** A barcode scanner employs a laser to illuminate a series of bars and spaces printed on an item. These bars and spaces contain information that the scanner retrieves in order to identify the item in the scanner's database and send that information to the checkout terminal for processing. There are a few different styles of barcode scanners, each offering its own set of benefits.

Lightpen or wand barcode scanners are desirable for their light weight and ease of use. The ability to take the wand scanner to the item itself is a great help, especially when dealing with larger items. The operator simply passes the end of the pen, from the 'quiet zone' of the barcode, smoothly over the code and the information is transmitted to the checkout terminal. Though there are no moving parts, the presence of a cable connecting the pen to the processor means parts can wear out.

Barcode slot readers and stationary fixed beam readers, as the name implies, are fixed laser readers, usually installed into a table under a glass, over which the item to be scanned is passed. Since these have no moving parts, maintenance is rarely an issue for these barcode scanners.

CCD barcode readers operate in similar fashion to photographic cameras. The barcode symbol is illuminated, usually by LED components in the reader and the reflected barcode symbol image is read by a photosensitive semiconductor called a linear photodiode. The analog symbol is then decoded and sent to the checkout terminal.