

WHAT ARE LEAN TOOLS?



Lean Tools are the medium through which [“Lean Manufacturing”](#) is carried out, with an aim to “Create Value for Customers by reducing non-value-added activities /efforts and thus, reduce Production time and cost”.

“The Toyota Way” is Toyota’s 1930 operating model that led to the idea of “Lean Manufacturing” to optimize production and supply chain practice and achieve Operational Excellence. Lean Manufacturing or Lean Production is a practice that focuses on the reduction of utilization of resources other than creating value for the end customer, and thus a target for minimizing waste and optimizing the process.

The term “Lean” was coined in 1988 by John Krafcik and defined in 1996 by James Womack and Daniel Jones. The practice consists of five main principles.

- Precisely specify a value for the product.
- Identify value adding & non- value-added activities for process.
- Make value flow without interruptions
- Let customer pull value from the producer
- Pursue perfection

LIST OF LEAN MANUFACTURING TOOLS

1. 5S:

Eliminates waste that results from a poorly organized work area (e.g. wasting time looking for a tool). Organize the work area:



- Sort (eliminate that which is not needed)
- Set In Order (organize remaining items)
- Shine (clean and inspect work area)
- Standardize (write standards for above)
- Sustain (regularly apply the standards)

2. Kaizen:



Kaizen stands for continuous improvement. It focuses on a strategy where employees work together proactively to achieve regular, incremental improvements in the manufacturing process.

3. Just-In-Time (JIT):



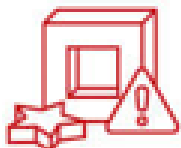
Just-In-Time pull parts through production based on customer demand instead of pushing parts through production based on projected demand.

4. Kanban:



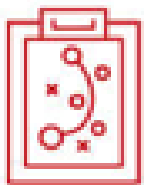
Kanban means pull system. It is a method of regulating the flow of goods both within the factory and with outside suppliers and customers. Kanban eliminates waste from inventory and overproduction.

5. Poka-Yoke:



Poka-Yoke is error proofing. It designs error detection and prevention into production processes with the goal of achieving zero defects. Since it is challenging and expensive to find all defects through inspection, and correcting defects gets significantly more expensive at each stage of production, this tool enables you to ensure error-proofing throughout

6. Value Stream Mapping:



Value Stream Mapping is a tool used to visually map the flow of production. It creates detailed visualization of all the steps in your process. Also, it shows the complete flow of goods right from supplier to the customer through the entire organization and, in a way, highlights opportunities for improvement.

7. Takt Time:



Takt Time is the total amount of time required to produce a product in order to meet the customer demand. It focuses on aligning the pace of production with customer demand. It is calculated as $\text{Planned Production Time} / \text{Customer Demand}$.

8. Total Productive Maintenance (TPM):



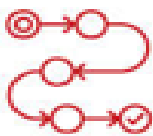
TPM is a holistic methodology that aims to maintain the continuous proactive production process and integrity of the work process to maximize the operational time of equipment. It creates a shared responsibility for equipment and boosts floor workers to take a greater involvement in maintenance.

9. Andon:



Andon means a status-display notion. It is a visual feedback system for the plant floor designed to alert operators and managers about real-time issues so that corrective measures can be taken immediately.

10. Continuous Flow



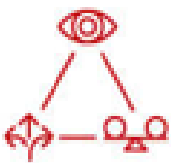
It is a method where work-in-process smoothly flows through production with minimal (or no) buffers between steps of the manufacturing process.

11. Gemba



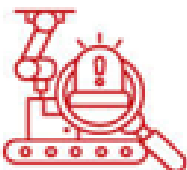
Gemba means 'The Actual Place'. It is a philosophy that dictates to get out of offices and spend time on the plant floor the place where the real action occurs. Gemba aims to promote the understanding of the real-world manufacturing issues by first-hand observation and by talking with plant floor employees.

12. Heijunka



Heijunka stands for level scheduling. It reduces the unevenness in the production process, minimizes the chances or possibilities of overburden.

13. Jidoka



Jidoka deals with the quality of the product. Widely known as autonomation, it protects your company from delivering low-quality or defective products.

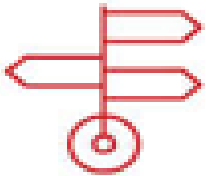
14. Single-Minute Exchange of Dies (SMED)



SMED reduces setup (changeover) time to less than 10 minutes. Techniques include:

- Convert setup steps to be external (performed while the process is running)
- Simplify internal setup (e.g. replace bolts with knobs and levers)
- Eliminate non-essential operations
- Create Standardized Work instructions

15. Visual Factory:



Visual indicators, displays and controls are used throughout manufacturing plants to improve communication of information. It consists of a set of charts, direction signage, information representation that enables quick dissemination of data.

Our [Lean Manufacturing Consultants](#) have experience in all verticals of business and are experts in providing lean manufacturing training with a solution, Total Quality Management that's cost-effective, efficient and reliable in the long-run. 4C team has provided lean tool services and training to 45+ clients and 1300+ training hours along with 60+ certifications. To know more about how you can practice lean manufacturing in your organization, [talk to our consultant now](#).