



Ideas @ work

Johnstone Supply Dania Beach Branch, The Ware Group

Johnstone Supply Dania Beach Branch, owned by The Ware Group, LLC in Jacksonville, FL. is part of 25 Johnstone locations across Florida and South Carolina. Johnstone Supply specializes in commercial and residential HVAC / R parts, and the Ware Group is their largest ownership group. Since purchasing the Dania Beach location three years ago, The Ware Group has invested in new technologies to increase its profitability and safety “Since Ware acquired us, we’ve been growing in leaps and bounds,” said Carlos Borja,

“With the growth we had to go higher to gain storage room and the Joey can fit the narrow aisles, go way up, and do it safer than the ladders.”



Branch Manager, “the owners pride themselves on safety, and brought the Joey in as a way to help the guys stay safe.” Adding J1 Joeys to their stores has been a part of The Ware Group’s business wide push for increased workplace safety. They are now are being used in Jacksonville, Ft. Lauderdale, Miami Lakes, Boca Raton, and most of other locations.

ISSUE: The Dania Beach store currently has an 18,000 sq. ft. warehouse with both narrow and wide aisles, a staging area and will call so customers can get in and out quickly. Order picking was being conducted with a number of rolling ladders and a forklift for larger items and higher stock.

SOLUTION: Incorporating a Joey into the picking operation has allowed Dania Beach to fill more orders faster while maintaining their nearly three year long streak of accident free days. “With the growth we had to go higher to gain storage room and the Joey can fit the narrow aisles, go way up, and do it safer than the ladders,” said Borja. “We have plans to expand to 40,000 sq. ft. soon and will definitely be adding more people and Joeys.” He continued, “It’s a time saver that also gives peace of mind knowing a guy isn’t going to fall off the ladder and get hurt.”

RESULT: Branch Manager Carlos Borja is National Safety Council certified forklift operator whose duties include training and safety talks with his team of employees. “Our owners want us to be safe in the workplace,” he said, “they want to make sure our people are going to go home to their families.” He points to the Joey as an important tool in that effort, “**We have greater productivity, faster picking and above all remained accident free with the Joey.**”

Because many orders are multi part with items in different aisles, pickers were often climbing up and down the rolling ladders several times per pick. The addition of the Joey to the warehouse has greatly streamlined operations, thanks to the 500 lb. capacity tray and powered lift. “We are getting orders filled faster and safer, without a doubt,” he said.

The Joey has had little trouble winning over Borja’s staff, “The guys catch on pretty quick, it’s a simple machine to use and self-explanatory.... The guys enjoy it, sometimes they fight about who gets to drive the Joey,” he laughed.



Ideas @ work

J1 JOEY



The J1 JOEY combines attributes of elevated work platforms, order pickers and tuggers into a compact vehicle design.



BIG JOE MISSION:

We believe that we can help North American businesses improve their results and the quality of their workers lives by providing simple innovative material handling products and genuine responsive support. Big Joe equipment focuses on supporting customers changing needs related to how they Move, Stack & Access materials in their operations with the goal of helping companies and their workers **move more and hurt less.**

ABOUT THE J1 JOEY:

- + **Safety** – Reduce exposure to worker injuries compared to ladders
- + **Productivity** – Complete 2x as much work as compared to ladders
- + **Capability** - Carry up to 2x the load weight of other vehicles
- + **Capability** - Tow up to 2,500lbs with the optional tow hitch
- + **Capability** - Elevate operators as high as 192" on the J1-192

Key features:

- Electronic power steering with infinitely variable speed control
- Finger tip controls integrated into vehicle guardrails
- Premium steel I-beam mast construction and steel frame
- 180 degree articulating driveline with 72" minimum turn radius. The Joey can can be driven at height to move from task to task. Travel is provided by a high efficiency AC drive motor that can be programmed through the on-board LCD dash, while power comes from a standard 224AH AGM maintenance free battery pack that supports opportunity charging from a standard 120v outlet or a lead acid industrial battery and external charger which is required on the J1-192.