

Animation 4.2

This figure illustrates two different types of layout which are possible in an operation. Firstly there is a process layout in which all similar types of equipment are located next to each other. In our example we have highlighted a light engineering company with 5 different sets of equipment arranged in this way.

You will notice that the arrows show that work moves back and forward between the different workstations as each job gets completed. This type of layout is also known as a functional layout and is useful for job shop and batch processes.

However it is just as useful in a customer processing operation such as an X-ray department where patients are sent to it from all areas of the hospital.

The second type of layout is called a product layout where materials, information and customers follow a pre-determined route in which the activities are all in line and in one direction.

Our example shows operations in a garment making factory and would normally be associated with mass or line production so would also be used for automotive assembly or domestic goods manufacturing. Again this type of layout can also be used in a customer processing operation such as a self-service cafeteria.