



Value Stream Mapping

Value stream mapping is a lean management technique for visualizing the flow of materials and information required to bring a product or service to a customer. It highlights opportunities to eliminate waste and create more value.

To create a value stream map:

1. Define the target product, service, or process to be mapped.
2. Map out each process step from raw materials to the customer.
3. For each step indicate relevant metrics like cycle time, changeover time, inventory levels, defects, etc.
4. Categorize each step as value-added or non-value-added from the customer's perspective.
5. Identify the constraints limiting flow through the value stream.
6. Analyze the map to find waste and gaps contributing to delays, excess inventory, defects, and other non-value-add costs.
7. Develop a future state map with waste removed to guide kaizen activity.

Key benefits of value stream mapping include:

- Seeing the big picture value flow, not just individual processes
- Measuring to baseline performance
- Quantifying different types of waste
- Visualizing the opportunities for improvement and lean transformation
- Aligning teams to target waste removal activities with the greatest impact
- Communicating the future state vision

Value stream mapping is a foundational tool for enabling a lean management system. The insights it provides into waste drive impactful efficiency gains.