

# Fastenal planning major expansion for Triad distribution hub

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Fastenal Co., a Winona, Minn.-based distributor of industrial and construction supplies that employs a work force of 245 at its distribution center in High Point, is planning to add 20 new employees to support increased demand over the next several weeks and add 120,000 square feet to the facility over time.

Chris Patrick, regional operations manager for Fastenal, said the facility will be expanded in phases to 295,000 square feet within eight or nine years. He didn't have a price tag for the addition.

Fastenal's currently occupies about 175,000 square feet of warehouse space within an approximately 230,000-square foot building at 4110 Premier Drive in High Point. He said Newell Rubbermaid rents about 60,000 square feet of office space from Fastenal in the front of the facility.

Patrick said the first wave of the facility expansion involves adding about 20,000 to 30,000 square feet within the next two years. Another 30,000 square feet would be added two or three years after that, he said.

Fastenal recently added 20 people to its staff and expects to add another 15 to 20 workers within the next six weeks for distribution work that includes shipping, receiving and order-picking.

Ace/Avant, an Archdale-based concrete construction contractor, is currently expanding Fastenal's truck parking lot and adding 15 dock doors to help the company service its Atlanta and Pennsylvania distribution centers from High Point. Fastenal historically handled 9,000 to 10,000 orders per day for Fastenal stores across the Mid-Atlantic, but it upped its capacity in March as it began supporting inventory for those two distribution centers.

"That's adding another 2,000 to 3,000 orders to our daily workload," Patrick said. "To support that, our inventory has ramped up considerably. We are adding thousands and thousands and thousands of additional (stock-keeping units)."

The orders range from nuts and bolts to hard hats to other safety products.

Ace/Avant began the work in February and should be finished by the end of this month, Patrick said.