



# Product Handling and Feeding – the Heartbeat of the Blister Packaging Process

By Adam Rosenthal

As indicated in a prior white paper by my colleague Chad Tyler (<https://www.pharmapackagingnews.com/usa-bottles-to-blisters/>), patient protection/safety, product quality, and patient adherence to dosage and schedule make blister packaging an attractive option – with positive impact on all these factors.

Within the blister packaging operation, it has been said that the manner of handling the products and feeding them to the blister packaging machine is the true heartbeat of the process. If the products are not handled and fed properly, the blister packaging operation **will not be efficient**.

***The objective of this paper is to provide a cursory, introductory understanding of the various types of blister packaging feeding systems available.***

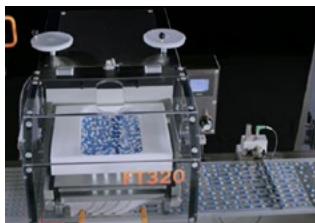


FEEDING STATION

## Feeding / Product Handling

### MULTIPLE OPTIONS, DEPENDING ON PRODUCT

There are multiple technologies available for feeding product into a blister packaging machine, and the best option is largely dependent on the product itself. Some applications can utilize a very standard handling/feeding technology, while other applications require something more customized.



### TUBE FEEDER

A feeding system from Pharmaworks with dedicated feeding tubes offers

a high level of control of product agitation and overall ease of use. Pharmaworks' tube feeding systems are completely self-contained, as opposed to other varieties of tube-type dedicated feeders, where there is an external control cabinet.

You can view a dedicated tube-style feeder in use in this video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8R7PlxZu\\_dI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8R7PlxZu_dI)

### FLOOD FEEDER

A blister packaging flood feeding system from Pharmaworks utilizes



planetary stirring and brush assemblies to shuffle product into blister cavities. Both assemblies have independent speed control and independent height positioning.

### BULK VIBRATORY FEEDER

A bulk vibratory feeder vibrates product across a sieve plate to remove dust and debris before delivery to the particular feeding system. Pharmaworks units have the option of being mounted to the feed system mobile cart, directly to the packaging machine, or on a dedicated mobile stand.



**A PICK & PLACE FEEDING**

A pick & place feeder can be perfect for low to medium tablet count feeding applications on any blister machine.



A pick & place feeder from Pharmaworks uses gentle rotary flaps to align product in

a feed track. Then product is aligned to the blister cavity layout and vacuum picked from the feed track by a servo actuated arm where it is gently placed in the blister cavity.

You can view a pick & place feeder in use in this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=078jeFH8avk>

**CUSTOM FEEDING AND HANDLING SOLUTIONS**

Solid dose products come in all shapes, sizes or could be frangible, requiring custom product delivery and handling methods. Pharmaworks has created multiple custom systems across multiple industries to gently control and handle a wide array of solid dose, liquid dose, and other products.

**POWDERS AND LIQUIDS**

Liquids and powders are becoming more common for blister applications. Pharmaworks has years of experience

integrating and designing fillers for our blister machines across medical and dental industries.



To see a liquid feeding application, view this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gcte-kFS-Y>

**DEVICES AND GOODS**

Handling medical devices and other consumer goods can be tough, typically requiring robotic feed systems. Pharmaworks has successfully designed robotic feed systems and integrated third party solutions with our blister packaging equipment.



To see a device-handling robotic feed system, view this video: <https://www.healthcarepackaging.com/PACKEXPO/video/22512028/integrated-vial-and-syringe-filling-to-case-packing>

**FOR QUESTIONS**

If you have questions about the best possible feeding/handling system for your blister packaging operation, please feel free to contact us at Pharmaworks.

**ABOUT PHARMAWORKS**

*Pharmaworks manufactures innovative blister packaging systems for a wide array of industries including pharmaceutical, medical, nutraceutical, animal health, and consumer goods. With a robust and flexible lineup of packaging solutions, we can handle nearly any customer challenge with unmatched precision to meet the most stringent packaging requirements. Pharmaworks blister solutions range from semi-automated machines to high-speed, fully automated, intermittent systems.*

*In addition to our core blister packaging machinery, we provide a wide range of feeding technology capable of loading some of the toughest products. Vision inspection systems, transfer systems, collators, and cartoners are just some of the additional technologies that make Pharmaworks the premiere provider of blister packaging solutions.*