Lean methodology looks at eliminating the waste from any process not just manufacturing. This includes services and transactions as well. Henry Ford was practicing lean before Toyota made this methodology popular. He didn’t call it lean then, he just called it efficiency. Check out these 10 tips on implementing lean and the seven deadly wastes that could be affecting your business.

1. **Gain Executive Buy-in as an Enterprise-wide Strategic Initiative**: It is not Joe or Sally’s way. It is learning the lean methodology and making it part of the fabric of your organization.

2. **Metrics Should be Measured and Public**: Most organizations are “data-rich.” Learn what data is appropriate for you to start seeing patterns good or bad that you can track over time. If it can be measured, it can be improved.

3. **Tie Individual Performance Goals to the desired outcomes**.

4. **Create cross-functional teams**: Implement the improvements with these teams and make the outcomes interdependent to the reward. This way, people help each other out and the success one of one is tied to another’s.

5. **Connect with HR**: Involve your Human Resources department in reinforcing your desired behaviors.

6. **Create an Internal Branding and Communications Campaign**.

7. **Conduct Improvement Projects**: Conduct monthly improvement projects called Kaizen Activity with Cross-Functional Teams so people can get to know each other and learn about each other’s work.

8. **Conduct Daily Executive “Walk-Abouts”**: Each department should post their goals and objectives. During daily “walk-abouts” executives can then ask a department head or manager what resources they may need. This is not a time for in-depth examination; the action should provide guidance to department heads for respective goals, demonstrate a commitment from the executive to supporting those goals, and be a mechanism for monitoring progress.

9. **Setup Dedicated Lean Coordinators or Green-Belts and Black Belts**.

10. **Benchmark**: Visit other factories, stores or facilities to learn how they do business.

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