

The Seven Wastes

Business & Management

The categories of activity that consume resource without adding value.

TIMWOOD — the classic seven, plus an eighth added later.

Waste	Looks like
Transport	Moving material unnecessarily
Inventory	Stock beyond what is needed now
Motion	People moving unnecessarily
Waiting	Idle time between steps
Overproduction	Making more or earlier than needed
Overprocessing	More work than the customer values
Defects	Rework, scrap, correction
Unused talent	People's skills not applied

Overproduction is considered the worst, because it creates every other waste — inventory, transport, waiting and hidden defects.