

# 10 KEY STEPS TO DEPLOYING RFID

Implementing a new technology takes thought and planning. This 10-Step checklist carefully outlines the major steps for determining if RFID is right for your application, and, if so, how to implement a solution. For more information on all things RFID - checkout our [website](#), [blog](#), [resources page](#), and [YouTube channel](#).

STEP  
1

## Assess Your Use Case & Learn More

The success of any RFID deployment begins with a proper understanding of the business problem, how it is currently being solved, and any additional needs and goals that must be met. While you are collecting your application data, refresh your knowledge of the pros and cons of RFID, the three main frequency subsets, and common use cases to properly determine RFID's feasibility and limitations for your application.

STEP  
2

## Determine Your Application Requirements & Constraints

Once a company completely understands the problem and has a good idea of what a successful solution looks like, the next step is to determine any additional requirements of the application. This step can often be approached as two smaller steps: (1) Create a list of requirements and constraints, along with a list of desired features. (2) Create a list of potential obstacles, and potential solutions to these issues.

Desired features of the application could include features like Wi-Fi or Bluetooth functionality; while constraints could include things like lack of space, limited power options, or network access restrictions.

STEP  
3

## Evaluate Your Application Environment

An application's environment is critical to its success. Because RFID is adversely affected by liquids and metal, it important to evaluate your environment so that any issues can be properly mitigated. Specialized RFID equipment, along with proper tag and hardware placement, are key to mitigating most environmental issues.

STEP  
4

## Speak to an RFID Expert

At this point in the process, speaking to an RFID expert about your application is recommended. An RFID expert can walk you through similar applications, provide advice and troubleshoot any potential problems, brainstorm appropriate hardware and software solutions, and more. RFID technology experts are more than just hardware experts. RFID experts listen and learn about RFID applications every day, which makes their advice invaluable when setting up your system.

STEP  
5

## Determine Your Budget

After assessing your use case, determining its requirements and restrictions, evaluating your environment, and speaking to an expert, you should now have a more accurate picture of and price range for your RFID application. Before going further, determine all estimated costs associated with the system, including hardware, software, deployment time, recurring costs, any long-term support costs, etc. Compare the created cost analysis with the costs of not implementing RFID and continuing with the status quo. Create a budget based on your analytics, system affordability, and the determined ROI from the deployment.

STEP  
6

### **Choose the Ideal Hardware & Software**

Once you've determined a solution and narrowed down your options, you'll need to choose the right hardware and software to match your requirements and preferred costs. It is not necessary to purchase all RFID hardware for the entire solution at this stage.

Instead, purchase or lease the equipment required to conduct a pilot test. This allows room for any changes to be made early on in the implementation process, versus making a much larger change after full implementation has taken place. Creating a scalable RFID application is key in many implementations, and it starts with a small successful setup.

STEP  
7

### **Conduct a Pilot Test & Validate the Solution**

Conduct a pilot test in order to validate your RFID solution for your application in the application environment. A real-world test will validate whether your solution will perform as expected and meet your application, performance, and accuracy requirements.

Once the solution is validated, additional RFID hardware can be purchased to deploy the system. If the solution has any problems, reach out to an RFID expert for troubleshooting and additional mitigation tips, especially if stray reads or proper read range is a problem.

STEP  
8

### **Develop a Deployment & Implementation Plan**

Develop a detailed plan for deploying and implementing your solution, including a timeline, required resources, any third-party services and support, and plans for training, support, and continuous improvement.

STEP  
9

### **Deploy Your Solution**

Schedule deployment and then roll out your solution with training, implementation, and support. If you've been working with a third-party expert on your project all along, this is an area where your RFID partner can play a particularly vital role by helping you coordinate and execute the entire process.

STEP  
10

### **Provide Ongoing Support & Continuous Improvement**

As with any technology and new solution rollout, RFID will require ongoing system maintenance and support. As you begin to use your RFID solution, you'll learn important lessons that will help you fine-tune your RFID systems performance and results.

**Need Help with Evaluating and Implementing RFID?** New technology can be complicated, and we are here to help. If you are looking for a specific product, need advice from an RFID expert, or a quote on what your potential RFID system could cost, reach out to us.

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