

The Inventory Redundancy Checklist

8 questions to answer before your ops lead's next vacation or sick day.

Most inventory reconciliation processes run on one person's judgment, not a documented system. That works fine — right up until that person is out. Use this checklist to find out, honestly, where **your** inventory process has a single point of failure before peak season tests it for you.

-  **Could someone else spot today's biggest inventory mismatch without asking your ops lead first?**
If the answer is no, the checking itself — not just the fixing — is the single point of failure.
-  **Is there any written record of which system is the source of truth for each data type?**
Shopify, your 3PL, and your warehouse each have a number. Someone has to know which one wins when they disagree — and it can't only live in one head.
-  **Does anyone besides your primary person know the difference between normal drift and a real problem?**
That judgment call is usually the hardest part to hand off — and the part nobody writes down.
-  **If your ops lead were out for a full week starting tomorrow, who would catch an oversold SKU — and how many days would it take?**
Be specific. "Someone would probably notice" is not an answer.
-  **Can a backup person see the same mismatch data without your team paying for a second license?**
Per-seat pricing quietly discourages redundancy — teams under-cross-train because a real backup is expensive to give visibility to.
-  **Are receiving discrepancies and unresolved returns tracked anywhere besides one person's memory?**
These are two of the most common places inventory drift actually starts — and the easiest to lose track of when the usual person isn't checking.
-  **Has your backup plan ever actually been tested — not just written down?**
A runbook nobody has run is a guess, not a plan.
-  **Is reconciliation the same one person, every single day, with no fallback at all?**
If you answered yes here and nowhere else on this list, that's the honest starting point.

45m–3h

Typical daily time multi-channel operators spend on manual inventory reconciliation, per operator discovery research — all of it currently dependent on one person being available to do it.

Book a free 20-minute diagnostic

We'll look at your actual setup and show you exactly where the single point of failure is.

