

Using the Fixture Library to Build Properties Fast

If you manage more than a handful of properties, you already know the feeling: new location comes on board, and someone has to sit down and build out every fixture from scratch. Again. The Fixture Library exists specifically to eliminate that repetition. Build a fixture once, save it to the library, and deploy it to any property in your portfolio in seconds -- with all its parts, specs, and group associations intact.

What the Library Actually Does

When you save a fixture to the library, Sytewise takes a complete snapshot of everything attached to it: the fixture definition, every part with its full specifications (manufacturer, model number, part numbers, firmware versions, install dates, table details), and any of its group associations you want to include. That snapshot sits at the account level, available to any property, any trade, any time.

When you deploy a library item as a new fixture, all of that comes with it. You're not getting a blank fixture with a familiar name -- you're getting a fully populated record that's ready to work with the moment it lands on the property.

Saving a Fixture to the Library

Before you can use the library, you need something in it. Once you have a fixture built and documented the way you want it, here's how to save it:

1. Go to the fixture detail page.
2. In the parts section, click the **Library** button.
3. Enter a library title -- up to 24 characters.
4. Click **Save**.

That's it. The fixture is now available for deployment across your entire account.

One thing worth spending a moment on: the title. You'll be selecting this item from a list later, possibly months from now, possibly by a team member who didn't build it. "Standard 20ft LED Pole w/ Driver" or "Plumbing - 2 Restroom Standard" will serve you far better than "Fixture 1" or "HVAC Template." Be specific enough that the name tells you exactly what's inside without having to open it.

Choosing the Right Fixtures for the Library

The library shines brightest when the fixtures you're deploying are either identical across properties or generic enough that the specifics get filled in after deployment.

If you standardize on a single manufacturer and part number across all your locations for a given fixture type -- the same AV controller in every venue, the same RTU model across a retail chain -- the library carries the full spec to every property automatically. One import, fully documented.

For fixture types where the specific part numbers vary by location (plumbing is the classic example), the library still earns its keep by getting the right fixture names and structure onto the property quickly. You fill in the location-specific details -- serial numbers, model variants, install dates -- after the fixtures land. "Commode 1," "Commode 2," "Mop Sink," "Floor Drain" all show up on the property in the right trade in one operation, and you work through the details at your own pace.

Building a Good Library Group

Before you save a fixture set to the library, it helps to think about what a useful group template looks like. A good group puts as many relevant fixtures on the property as possible without creating a cleanup problem on the exceptions.

For example: if most of your locations have two commodes per restroom, build your plumbing library group with two commodes. The handful of locations with three commodes just need one addition after import -- much less work than building from zero at every location. Think of the group as a sensible starting point that covers the common case, not a perfect fit for every edge case.

Generic, consistent names are your friend here. "Front Door," "Back Door," "Overhead Dock Door" or "Commode 1," "Commode 2," "Commode 3" give your staff, vendors, and surveyors clear reference points across every property without requiring location-specific creativity at import time.

Deploying a Library Item to a Property

When you're ready to add fixtures to a new property using a library item, here's the flow:

1. Go to the property and select the trade where the fixtures belong.
2. Click the **+ Fixture** button.
3. Switch to the **Add From Library** tab.
4. Select the library item you want to deploy using the radio buttons.
5. Set the **Parts Install Date** -- this becomes the installation date recorded on every part created from the template.
6. Check or uncheck **Include Groups** (see below).

7. Click **Add From Library**.

Sytewise creates the fixture and all of its parts in a single operation. Every part field from the library item copies to the new fixture with the install date you specified.

The Include Groups Checkbox

When you deploy a library item, you'll see an **Include Groups** checkbox. This is worth understanding before you click past it.

If the fixture was saved as part of a group, checking this box recreates that group association on the new fixture automatically. If you're building out a property and want your lighting fixtures to land in the "Pole Lights" group right out of the gate, check it. If you'd rather start fresh and organize your groups manually once everything is on the property, leave it unchecked.

For large bulk imports where group organization is part of your workflow, checking Include Groups can save a significant amount of post-import cleanup.

After the Library Item Lands: Reposition Right Away

Every fixture created from a library item starts its life at the property's center point on the map or floor plan. If you're adding a dozen fixtures at once, you'll have a dozen markers stacked on top of each other at the property center until you move them.

Make repositioning the first thing you do after a library import. Open each fixture, find the marker on the map, and drag it to where the fixture actually lives. The coordinates update automatically when you drop it. It takes less than a minute per fixture and makes the property map genuinely useful instead of decorative.

The Payoff at Scale

The first time you use the library it saves you some typing. By the tenth property it's saving you hours. By the fiftieth it's one of those things you can't imagine not having.

More than speed, though, the library enforces consistency. Every property built from the same library item has the same fixture names, the same part structure, the same trade organization. That uniformity makes cross-portfolio searching cleaner, makes reporting more predictable, and makes it much easier to onboard someone new because every similar property looks the same in the system.

Build your library items carefully the first time, name them well, and let them do the heavy lifting from there.

For a complete reference on all fixture creation methods including manual entry, cloning, and CSV import, see

Creating and Managing Fixtures →

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