

Wal-Mart's 2009 PESP Strategy

Wal-Mart's Mission

Wal-Mart views environmental sustainability as one of the most important business opportunities. By participating in strategic strategies, Wal-Mart believes it will become a better company. Wal-Mart's company goals are to be supplied by 100% renewable energy, to create zero waste, and to sustain the natural resources and the environment for years to come.

Wal-Mart's pest management program is designed to support these company directives. In the last two years, Wal-Mart has been working to develop and expand a more sustainable pest management program. It is Wal-Mart's mission to continue to explore new opportunities and strategies to support its company directives.

In 2004, Wal-Mart and Nestle Purina established a partnership to research determine root causes of pest infestations in traditional pest programs. This study was conducted by the Food Safety Department at Wal-Mart, Dr. Robert Corrigan with RMC Consulting, Linda Mason with Purdue University, and Kim Kemp with Nestle Purina. The two year study provided data and insight into the opportunity to develop and implement a sustainable pest management program.

In 2006, a pilot study was established and six distribution centers and eight retail locations were placed on the 'Go Green' protocol. Since that time, the pilot has become a program. Through Wal-Mart's longtime partnership with Nestle Purina, established by Kim Kemp, they have been able to work closely with Dr. Robert Corrigan with RMC Consulting and Dr. Stephen Kells with the University of Minnesota to develop and expand the program to all areas of the business. The contribution of the facilities on the program to chemical reductions and overall sustainable efforts has been measurably significant.

Program Design

Wal-Mart's program consists of evaluating a site's pest trend data over several years, repositioning pest devices in key areas of known and potential pest activity, replacing traditional metal interior pest devices susceptible to damage with a near indestructible PVC pipe and glue board traps, and doubling inspection time in facilities. Focus is directed at immediate reaction to pest sighting logs and thorough inspection of the interior and exterior of the facility.

Pest monitoring devices are not limited to or restricted to around the interior walls of the facility but are strategically placed in areas of known or potential pest activity. The traditional method of placing devices on each side of doors or every 25 to 50 feet in the facility is replaced with strategic applications of devices. In this study, it was found that 60% of the devices used in a traditional program never are used yet they must be inspected and maintained. In the "Go Green" program device use is limited to devices that are needed in key locations based upon past pest trends.

Rodenticide is consistently used on the exterior of facilities in rodent bait stations positioned approximately every 75 to 100 feet in a traditional program. In the "Go Green" program the routine use of rodenticide is eliminated. Trend data is used to determine position and number of devices present on the exterior. Rodent stations on the "Go Green" program contain two snap traps. Rodent stations near compactors contain blocks that contain no rodenticide. These blocks detect rodent pressure on the exterior and are used only as a means of monitoring. By using snap traps and detection blocks Wal-Mart is able to eliminate the routine use of rodenticide and significantly reduce the overall application of pesticide at its facilities.

Routine preventative applications of pesticides are eliminated in this program. A pest must be present to qualify for any type of application. Distribution center insect monthly fogging was eliminated in all Logistics operations when this program was started. These directives have significantly reduced the amount of pesticides applied in the environment.

Request for Participation

By joining PESP, it will allow Wal-Mart to show its commitment to environmental sustainability through a public forum. Wal-Mart has been diligently working on this program for more than two years. Wal-Mart believes that by participating, they can significantly impact the environment thru reduction of pesticides and elimination of routine rodenticide use. Wal-Mart hopes that its commitment to the strategies will encourage other retailers to participate, as well as the pest control companies that service them. Wal-Mart believes that these initiatives will have a dramatic impact on the overall pest control industry.

Wal-Mart is composed of 4269 retail facilities and 148 distribution centers nationwide. Each facility has implemented an integrated pest management program.

Wal-Mart's PESP Goal

Wal-Mart's goal is to minimize the application of pesticides used at distribution centers, stores, and clubs through application of key integrated pest management directives.

Wal-Mart's Plan

Wal-Mart will require its pest management providers to use strategic monitoring devices to detect pest presence and pressure in place of traditional rodenticide applications. Wal-Mart will greatly reduce waste in its programs by using non-traditional pest devices that withstand wear and damage. Wal-Mart will require its pest management providers to be more strategic in their pesticide applications.

Goal 1 and Tactics

Reduce landfill waste due to the disposal of damaged traditional pest devices in Wal-Mart's stores and clubs. Target: 80% reduction in damaged devices sent to landfills. This will be accomplished by the following:

- Replace existing metal and plastic multi-catch devices with PVC pipe traps.
- Replace traditional pest device traps in new stores and clubs on initial program setup with PVC pipe traps.

Baseline data will be established with number of replaced devices for calendar year of 2007 and 2008.

Goal 2 and Tactics

Reduce rodenticide usage through more strategic applications. This will be accomplished by the following:

- Require pest management providers to eliminate the routine monthly use of rodenticide in 40 distribution centers a year, eliminating 25% of routine use of rodenticide a year.
- Require pest management providers to eliminate the routine monthly use of rodenticide in stores and clubs in the first year, eliminating 95% of routine use of rodenticide a year.

Baseline will be established with rodenticide used in 2007 and 2008.

Goal 3 and Tactics

Minimize pesticide applications. This will be accomplished by the following:

- Require pest management providers to increase inspection points in key areas in the stores, clubs, and distribution centers during monthly service to detect pest issues more quickly.
- Place all new stores, clubs, and distribution centers on a pest management program that allows pesticides to be applied in a more strategic manner.

Target: 95% facilities will be placed on the program.

Baseline will be established with pesticide usage in 2007 and 2008.