

iGPS LOGISTICS CLIENT CASE STUDY



CLIENT OVERVIEW

Founded in 1972, Ohio-based Magnetic Springs is a family-owned and operated regional producer and distributor of bottled water, coffee, and tea equipment and supplies. Known for its extensive community involvement (such as their donation of drinking water to help alleviate the Flint, MI water crisis in 2014), Magnetic is also committed to environmental sustainability and employee safety.

THE CHALLENGE

As a major manufacturer and distributor of top-quality water products, Magnetic Springs delivers its products on tens of thousands of pallets annually. The company previously used standard wood-block pallets, but faced numerous issues. The pallets would occasionally chip and splinter, causing jams in automatic palletizers and added time for cleanup crews to sweep up debris. Damaged pallets getting hung up on racks necessitated an employee climbing up to free obstructions, further compromising safety. In addition, the weight of the pallets created handling challenges and added weight to freight loads, increasing transport costs and greenhouse emissions. These issues collectively had the potential to decrease employee safety, satisfaction, and productivity while compromising sustainability goals.

THE SOLUTION

Magnetic Springs' leadership team is committed to reusability and recycling. So, when Magnetic had an opportunity to work with iGPS Logistics, the nation's leading provider of recyclable pooled plastic pallets, they believed this was a major step toward meeting their reusability goals.

iGPS



The program started small, with original expectations that Magnetic Springs would ship a relatively small number pallets each year. Due to the success of the program, Magnetic Springs is now annually shipping more than three times as many iGPS pallets as originally anticipated, to major retailers that include Walmart and Kroger.

SEE THE RESULTS

BUSINESS RESULTS

A “REFRESHING” BOOST TO THE BOTTOM LINE

According to Magnetic Springs’ leadership team, many of the significant challenges they previously faced have been eliminated. Heavily damaged pallets no longer need to be shipped out for possible disposal, a time-consuming and expensive process; in the rare event that an iGPS pallet is damaged, it is quickly recovered and sent out for recycling. Each iGPS pallet is noticeably lighter than its non-plastic counterpart — at least 20 pounds lighter. The environmental improvements are outlined below, but it is well worth noting that reduced weight means fewer shipments overall. Water is a heavy product, particularly in comparison to its low retail cost. While Magnetic Springs is typically able to put 28 pallets on a truck, in some cases they are able to fit 29 pallets due to the lighter pallet weight. This equates to about 50 fewer truckloads per year — which helps save time and money for Magnetic Springs’ customers. It also improves business efficiency and decreases fuel emissions.

PRODUCTIVITY RESULTS

AN EFFICIENT, HIGH-PERFORMING TEAM

As with any big program change, there were early internal naysayers — but they are now strong supporters. In an industry where supply chain cleanliness is critical, workers have commented on how much easier cleanup is now. Magnetic Springs estimates that its night cleaning staff have experienced at least a 12 percent increase in time productivity since iGPS pallets were implemented. The pallets’ smooth plastic surfaces are also much easier to sanitize. Meanwhile, the iGPS pallets have removed the threats to employee safety posed by pallet debris, loose nails, and jammed palletizers.

SUSTAINABILITY RESULTS

A SIGNIFICANTLY SMALLER CARBON FOOTPRINT

Using iGPS pallets, which are easily 20 pounds lighter than wood-block pallets, Magnetic Springs is saving at least 560 pounds of weight per truckload. While specific numbers of shipments are confidential, for every 100,000 iGPS pallets that Magnetic ships, nearly 1,000 gallons of fuel are saved, and there is a reduction of more than 20,000 pounds of greenhouse emissions (based on EPA fuel usage data). This also means trucks are also much lighter when they return the iGPS pallets from the customer to the production facilities, further cutting down on fuel consumption and emissions. Combined with the fact that the iGPS pallets are 100 percent recyclable and never wind up in landfills, this program has significantly contributed to Magnetic Springs’ sustainability goals.



As a result of this program, Magnetic Springs’ owners and leadership team are confident that they have saved time, increased efficiency and employee satisfaction, and achieved their objective to become better environmental stewards. To learn more about iGPS pallets and their benefits, visit www.igps.net or call 800-884-0225.