



Commonwealth Inc.
Seamless Distribution Solutions

Case Study – St. Bernard Soap Company

History: The St. Bernard Soap Company operates over fifteen packaging lines to produce soap in bar, flake, and noodle configurations for some of the largest consumer products companies in the world. Their Cincinnati plant creates some of the most recognizable soap brands in the United States including Olay, Camay, Old Spice, Irish Spring, Palmolive, Ivory, Lever 2000, and Safeguard. During the manufacturing process scrap remnants and soap dust are unavoidable byproducts. Since the scrap soap still has value these remnants were placed into an open top totes for eventual reuse. The previous logistics provider stored these totes in a low-ceilinged warehouse on ground level and tracked their inventory counts in a basic spreadsheet. St. Bernard Soap realized they needed a better solution.

Solution: Commonwealth convinced St. Bernard Soap to transfer the soap totes into a more modern facility with high ceilings and a pallet rack storage system for maximum space utilization. We then worked with a local freight carrier to rapidly transport over 1700 totes (70 truckloads) in less than 20 business days. The complete logistics solution implemented at the new warehouse included:

- Purchase and installation of steel wire decking to accommodate the heavy weight of the soap totes. The decking eliminated the risk of a pallet bowing or breaking by evenly distributing the weight of the tote.
- All totes were weighed upon receipt using a digital pallet scale to ensure proper weight counts were recorded both on the tote and on the warehouseman's receipt document.
- All totes were stored in a pallet racking system with a four-tiered bin configuration thus reducing the square footage required by over 50% and increasing product accessibility.
- All item descriptions, item codes, weights, dispositions, brand codes, and Julian date codes were input into our WMS, 3PLink.
- St. Bernard Soap was then provided access to 3PLink's Web Portal, a real-time online reporting tool giving them access to item information 24/7 via the internet.

Results: St. Bernard Soap quickly realized a major cost savings thanks to the increased space utilization the pallet rack system provided. This volume-based savings led to more inbound scrap tote material and additional packaging materials products being stored at Commonwealth. All inventory information became readily available via the Internet which increased internal efficiency and productivity.

Scope: A general summary of the contract operation is below:

- A public, multi-tenant warehousing solution located in Cincinnati, OH
- Average monthly inventory level of 1800 pallets
- Medium velocity inventory turn requiring full pallet handling & value-added services
- Dedicated dock doors with standing dock appointments with local carrier