

Walmart offers curbside pickup for online grocery shoppers in Sacramento area

By: Mark Glover
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This Walmart in West Sacramento is one of three area locations to launch curbside pickup for online grocery shoppers on Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016. **Florence Low** - Sacramento Bee file

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. on Wednesday is launching online grocery shopping and curbside pickup service at three of its Sacramento-area stores.

The free service enables customers to order groceries online and pick them up at Walmart locations, without even leaving their vehicles.

The service is being offered at Walmart Supercenters at 5821 Antelope Road in Sacramento, 755 Riverpoint Court in West Sacramento and 900 Pleasant Grove Blvd. in Roseville.

“Our customers have told us that grocery pickup is a game-changer. They’re now able to complete their grocery shopping in a matter of minutes – between errands or on their way home from an after-school activity, without even unbuckling their seat belts,” said Chester Gray, Wal-Mart regional general manager.

The online ordering with curbside pickup is not unique to Wal-Mart. Other grocers, including Raley's, have instituted similar programs.

Walmart's Sacramento-area launch is part of a Northern California rollout. The service was introduced Monday in Patterson, Tuesday in Stockton and Wednesday in Lodi.

Wal-Mart began testing curbside pickup three years ago and has been rapidly expanding the program this year. The company said the service is available in about 500 stores in more than 80 markets nationwide. The retailer said more rollouts of the service will continue through the end of this year.

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The company said the service features 30,000 items. Wal-Mart officials said more than 90 percent of customers choose meat, dairy or produce items. Other popular items include after-school snacks, diapers and large bags of dog food.

Pick-up item prices match those found in the brick-and-mortar stores.

Participants can order and choose a pickup time at walmart.com/grocery or through the Walmart Grocery mobile app, enter their ZIP codes to select a nearby store and create their shopping lists. During checkout, participants can select a time to pick up orders.

From there, “personal shoppers” at the stores fill the orders. Customers can then pull into reserved parking spaces marked in orange and call a number to alert a store employee that they are on-site. A Walmart employee will then load the prepared order into a customer's vehicle.

Wal-Mart said customers who are not satisfied with a delivered item have the option of bringing back a receipt to obtain a full refund.