

Curbside Pick-Up

Helping in the Fight Against COVID-19



ALDI was founded by the Albrecht family in 1961 in Germany, making ALDI the first discounter in the world.

Headquartered in Batavia, IL, ALDI now has more than 1,900 stores across the United States. They have been steadily growing since opening their first US store in Iowa in 1976.

Since 2008, APD has managed ALDI's US Prototype Program. This program has included numerous redesigns of stores over the years.

Most recently has been the addition of curbside pickup at more than 600 stores nationwide.



Executive Summary

COVID-19 hit the world hard in early 2020. There was no way to be prepared for it as it raced from country to country, quickly being labelled a "pandemic".

State after state went into "lock down" mode with stay-at-home orders. All non-essential businesses were closed. Millions were out of work and the Nation was reeling along with the rest of the globe.

Challenges

Grocery stores were deemed essential businesses and remained open. Many had reduced hours and scrambled to figure out the best way to do business. Guidelines recommended distancing and sanitizing, but there was not a clear-cut solution given to businesses to follow.



The Solution

Each business needed to determine the best way to deal with the quarantine. Masks were required and distancing was mandatory. Some businesses limited quantities on purchases. Some businesses limited the number of

customers that could enter at one time. Carts were sanitized between each shopper. Everyone did their best to distance themselves from other shoppers, in many cases plexiglass barriers were installed to separate staff from customers.

At ALDI, they had been quietly testing curbside pickup through Instacart (a grocery delivery service). In late 2019 they began to add curbside pickup to select stores in Milwaukee, WI. With the spread of COVID-19 and the need for distancing, the program flourished and was expanded.

Once this expansion was identified APD mobilized and worked with ALDI Divisional Real Estate Directors to coordinate the layouts for proposed curbside locations. Each store required the establishment of a curbside equipment staging area within the store and associated curbside parking spaces on the exterior.

After coordination and planning was complete, APD developed a unique drawing set showing the required Architectural, Electrical and Civil construction scope for each store. Because APD is a multi-disciplinary firm, we were able to quickly develop these sets and get them to the

field for immediate implementation to assist with the ALDI National rollout of their Curbside program.

Results

Over the course of 6 weeks APD was able to mobilize and produce over 200 curbside drawing sets for immediate implementation into operating stores. APD's agility and responsiveness, coupled with our seamless transition to working from home during the pandemic were integral to delivering these projects for one of our most trusted business partners.

High interest from shoppers has made curbside pickup a successful program at ALDI. This, in turn, keeps the number of shoppers down in any given store, allowing for easier distancing while shopping. Convenience is also cited as a reason that shoppers enjoy the curbside pickup experience.

"Our Curbside Grocery Pickup pilot was quickly embraced by our customers and demand for this service has continued to increase. We're pleased to be bringing this service to customers across 35 states over the next several weeks,"

Jason Hart, CEO, ALDI US
from a May 28th News Release

