



Case Study of The J. M. Smucker Company

Keys to Success

-  **Project Description**
-  **Economic Value**
-  **Challenges & Advice**
-  **Benefits**
-  **Stewardship Meaning**

 For more than 115 years, The J. M. Smucker Company has been a leading marketer and manufacturer of fruit spreads, retail packaged coffee, peanut butter, shortening and oils. The company's leading peanut butter brand, *JIF*®, is produced at the company's Lexington plant, which is the largest peanut butter-producing facility in the world.

The Lexington site is on 28 acres, which included eight or nine older buildings recently purchased from a neighboring lumber yard. In order to facilitate an expansion of the plant, Smucker was looking for an environmentally friendly way to remove the buildings from the property.

Environmental responsibility is a natural part of the Smucker Company's heritage. In Lexington, Smucker is a member of KY EXCEL, the Commonwealth's voluntary environmental leadership program. In addition, LEED design and construction has been at the forefront of the company's expansion projects.

To date, five of the company's buildings have achieved LEED certification, including the *JIF* Learning Center in Lexington. Continuing with this focus on sustainability, it was important to the company to remove the buildings in a way that would have the least impact on the environment, plant operations and neighboring residents.

“Sustainability is always at the forefront of everything we do,” says Larry Agee, Plant Engineer for the J.M. Smucker Company.

Scott Rose, Operations Safety Leader for Smucker, said the company obtained demolition permits for the salvage company that was hired to remove the buildings piece by piece and reuse as many materials as possible. One of the buildings was built

of concrete blocks and had a wooden roof. The concrete blocks were ground up and the wood reused.

Larry Agee, Plant Engineer, said, “The buildings had several roll-up garage doors and light fixtures. We reused everything except for one shingled roof. Only seven 40-yard dumpsters of material were sent to the landfill. Since 50,000 square feet of buildings





were demolished, we drastically minimized the amount of material that went to the landfill.”

\$ Though the cost was more than the conventional way of bulldozing structures and hauling the material to a landfill, Smucker wanted the removal to be done in an environmentally sound manner.

Materials were reused as much as possible, sometimes being sold and bringing in funds. For example, metal siding was sold to individuals to build barns in another county.

Since no dust was created, the company didn’t have to pay to wash dust off any neighboring cars. Smucker saved on landfill fees and fuel for trucks that would have hauled materials to the landfill.



Materials are stacked for reuse at the Smucker site.

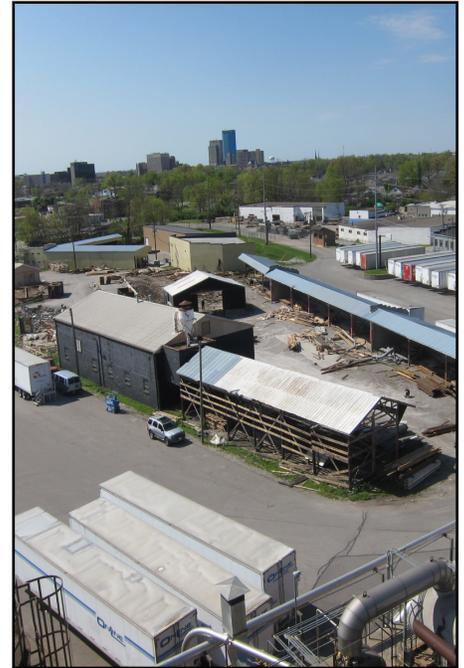
“We do things because we feel that it is the right thing to do,” said Agee.

? Agee said that having the right contractor in place was key to a successful project.

“Do your homework on contractors to hire,” advises Agee. “If you are undertaking a big demolition, get references. Determine a realistic schedule upfront. We thought our project would take a month, but it lasted four months. This method of removing structures is fairly new, so be aware that there are not many salvage companies that remove buildings piece by piece.”

+ “By not disturbing the land, the permitting process is easier,” says Rose. “All of the buildings were taken down to the ground level, piece by piece, leaving the concrete driveway.”

There were no complaints about noise, dust or scattered debris. Smucker’s daily business was not interrupted as the area was cleared. The process provided jobs for 10–15 people, tearing boards off buildings and taking nails out of the wood.



Buildings are removed piece by piece.

No dust was created by taking the buildings down slowly, which was a definite benefit for the company and the surrounding residences. Lumber was banded and taken out by trucks to be milled down and used for floors.

🌿 “Sustainability is always at the forefront of everything we do,” says Agee. “Working together with our contractor, we were able to successfully prepare our property in Lexington for expansion, while also remaining mindful of our impact on the environment and our neighbors.”

HELPFUL HINT: Reusing materials conserves natural resources, saves money and lessens the need to haul items to landfills.