

Walmart Adds Sensory-Friendly Hours at Stores Nationwide

by Shaun Heasley | July 12, 2023



Walmart will offer sensory-friendly shopping hours during the back-to-school season. (Shutterstock)

The nation's largest retailer is looking to be more welcoming to people with disabilities.

Walmart said it will modify the shopping experience at most stores across the country during special times now through the beginning of the school year to be more accommodating to those with sensory issues.

“We are striving every day to create a culture where everyone feels they belong,” Julie Barber, executive vice president of general merchandise at Walmart, said in a post announcing the effort. “This year, Walmart is taking steps toward creating a quieter shopping environment that’s more enjoyable for customers who live with sensory disabilities.”

During the events, stores will lower their overhead lights, turn off radios and replace moving pictures with static ones on televisions in an effort to “create a quieter and less stimulating shopping trip,” Walmart said.

The move is intended to “make back-to-school shopping more accessible to a broader range of customers,” according to the company.

Walmart will offer sensory-friendly hours each Saturday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. now through the end of August in areas where school starts before Labor Day. In regions where school starts after that holiday, sensory-friendly hours will be held on Saturdays from July 22 through Sept. 9.

While most stores are participating, Walmart said shoppers will need to contact their local store for more information.

Local Walmart locations in the Hudson Valley

Fishkill Supercenter 26 W Merritt Blvd, Fishkill, NY 12524; 845-896-8192

Newburgh Supercenter 1201 Route 300, Newburgh, NY 12550; 845-567-6007

Middletown Supercenter 470 Route 211 E, Middletown, NY 10940; 845-342-0222

Kingston Supercenter 601 Frank Stottile Blvd, Kingston, NY 12401; 845-336-4159

Danbury Store 67 Newtown Rd, Danbury, CT 06810; 203-791-1929