

Hypermat Charlottenberg, Sweden

Fast moving consumer goods



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Hypermat

Charlottenberg, Sweden



In 2014, Hypermat opened Scandinavia's largest food store in Charlottenberg in the Swedish county of Värmland. Located on the border between Sweden and Norway and boasting 10,000 square metres of floor space, it offered a high quality, cost-effective shopping experience in an ideal location – complete with a full-scale bakery and butcher's shop where both Swedes and Norwegians go to shop good food.

But conducting a modern retail operation at that scale often comes with complications. Hypermat sells soft drinks, bottled water, and other recyclable goods in high volume. Once consumed, containers will often make their way back to the supermarket to be processed for reuse. "We handle a lot of return bottles and cans", says store manager Kaj Hänninen.

Maintaining air purity in the space where these items are processed is vital, but it's not always simple. Odour, dust, and spilled liquids can pose real threats to any recycling operation – and at first, Hypermat's was no different.

The challenge: Reduce dust and odours to improve indoor air quality

Hypermat supplied a dedicated 25 square metres space for processing returns, complete with four recycling machines. The process of dismantling bottles and cans was automated by a conveyor belt system that fed directly into a shredder on another floor of the store. Once shredded, the materials were placed into outside containers, which were emptied weekly. This shredding process is indeed efficient

but not one without downsides. "The shredding and the handling of the empty bottles and cans creates a lot of dust and odours", comments Kaj Hänninen. "As our store is so nice and clean everywhere else, we obviously wanted it to be the same in the area where bottles and cans are recycled."

The air quality in the recycling area is a problem that affects both customer and staff experience: the aroma from residual liquids can be overpowering and off-putting. It was a problem that needed to be resolved quickly, but having tried various methods, Hypermat were at a loss.

"We tried to reduce the air pressure in the space behind the area where bottles and cans are recycled in order to ventilate out



FACTS

Company:	Hypermat
Person interviewed:	Kaj Hänninen, Manager
Sector:	Fast-moving consumer goods, retail
Location:	Charlottenberg, Värmland County, Sweden
Dust source:	Particles from bottles as they are ground off when the customers return them, and odours from beer and mineral water spillage from the bottles and cans.
Benefits:	Better user environment for Hypermat customers returning bottles and cans for recycling/ deposit return, also better working environment for personnel who work in the room where the equipment is placed. Furthermore, the life-cycle of the machinery is extended when they are not subject to wear caused by dust particles.

the odours”, says Kaj Hänninen. “Then we tried to change the cleaning routines and air the area more often. Nothing worked.”

A professional air cleaning system was installed

Zehnder Clean Air Solutions had already been in use throughout the supermarket since it opened. The air cleaning systems remove airborne particles in the Hypermat store bakery, warehouse, loading area and in the entrance.

“We had very positive experience of the Zehnder air cleaning systems and when Zehnder offered us the chance to use a customised version of their usual system with special odour-eliminating filter, we jumped at the opportunity”, says Kaj

Hänninen who had previous experience with Zehnder systems from other stores, in which he had previously worked.

Hypermat – an outstanding shopping experience

Zehnder Clean Air Solutions had a dramatic effect on the recycling area’s air quality: after three months only, the odours and dust were completely gone. “We have performed tests in the worst areas of the store, and we have noted that particulate values are extremely low”, Kaj said.

Kaj Hänninen sees several advantages in using the Zehnder system. “We’ve seen major improvement to our working environment”, he commented. “Our customers want to return bottles and cans

without having to experience an unpleasant smell in an unhygienic area. Zehnder Clean Air Solutions has given us a clean recycling point with excellent air quality.”

He adds: “Without having to worry about dust and dirt, our machinery will last longer, too. Cleaner air is good for equipment, has a positive impact on our staff’s health and creates an incomparable shopping experience for our customers.”

