



**An RTPS Whitepaper**

# **Why Delivery Beats Drop-In**



## **Shop Smart:**

### **The Case For Delivery vs In-Store Purchasing**

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ROUNDTABLE

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While in-store shopping may seem convenient and cost-effective solution to dealing with a short supply of materials, the true cost of going out to purchase these items often extends far beyond the price of the products themselves. Staff time spent travelling, browsing, purchasing, and transporting supplies can quickly add up, taking valuable resources away from mission-focused work. By contrast, delivery-based purchasing provides a more efficient and cost-effective solution, offering access to a wider selection of products, competitive pricing, streamlined ordering, and direct-to-door delivery.

For commonly purchased items such as office supplies, furniture, technology accessories, and janitorial products, a reliable delivery program can reduce administrative effort, improve purchasing controls, enhance budget visibility, and help organizations make better use of their time and resources.

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### **Three Key Reasons to Choose Delivery from a Reliable Supplier Over Retail Shopping**

#### **1. Quality and Consistency**

When purchasing office supplies, furniture, cleaning products, or other workplace essentials, quality matters. Reliable suppliers offer commercial-grade products from trusted brands that are designed for regular workplace use. In contrast, products purchased from dollar stores or discount retailers may vary significantly in quality, durability, and availability.



Working with a dedicated supplier also ensures consistency. When you find a product that works well for your organization, you can typically reorder the same item whenever needed, helping maintain standards across your workplace and reducing the risk of having to continually source replacement products.

## **2. Lower Overall Costs**

While a dollar store price tag may appear attractive, the lowest upfront cost does not always translate into the best value. Lower-quality products often need to be replaced more frequently, resulting in higher long-term costs.

Established suppliers provide access to competitive contract pricing, volume discounts, and a broader range of products that are better suited to organizational needs. They can also help consolidate purchases, reduce impulse spending, and provide detailed reporting that supports budgeting and cost control. When all costs are considered—not just the sticker price—delivery from a reliable supplier often proves to be the more economical choice.

## **3. Significant Time Savings**

Perhaps the greatest benefit is the time saved. Sending staff or volunteers to multiple stores to search for supplies takes valuable time away from their primary responsibilities. Travel time, product selection, checkout lines, and transporting purchases back to the office all create hidden costs that can quickly add up.

With a reliable supplier, orders can be placed online, by phone, or through a designated account representative and delivered directly to your location. This streamlined process reduces administrative burden, improves efficiency, and allows your team to focus on the work that matters most.

## **The Bottom Line**

Choosing delivery from a trusted supplier is about more than convenience. It provides access to higher-quality products, better overall value, and substantial time savings—allowing organizations to operate more efficiently while ensuring staff have the tools they need to succeed.



**Community Purchasing Network (CPN) members enjoy access to a trusted network of preferred suppliers across a wide range of spending categories, including Office & Facility Supplies.**

**Join the CPN today to learn more about our preferred Office & Facility Supplies partners, and the benefits available to your organization.**

**Round Table Procurement Services (RTPS)** is a professional services firm with significant expertise in helping non-profit organizations in Canada. We offer a unique combination of tools, approaches and people that come together to provide robust, tailored and realistic best practices for our clients. Our goal is to optimize procurement-related costs, efficiency and risk while supporting our client's achievement of their core mission.

RTPS assists non-profit organizations in understanding the implications of the Ontario Government's BPS Procurement Directive and developing and implementing policies and procedures that ensure ongoing compliance to the legislation. Our hands-on collaborative approach allows our clients to implement pragmatic and effective solutions that are sustainable over time.

For more information contact David Rourke at 416-816-6358, or send an email to [info@rtps.ca](mailto:info@rtps.ca), to discuss how RTPS might assist in achieving your organizational goals.