

What is the Blocking Wand?

A handheld tool designed to help with blocking & facing (aka fronting/conditioning/zoning).

What are the benefits of using the Blocking Wand?

- Enables users to block more merchandise in less time with less effort
- Reduces strain and frustration by extending the user's reach
- Decreases need for stepping stools (which improves safety & efficiency)
- Reduces items being dropped during blocking (which prevents shrink & messy clean-ups)

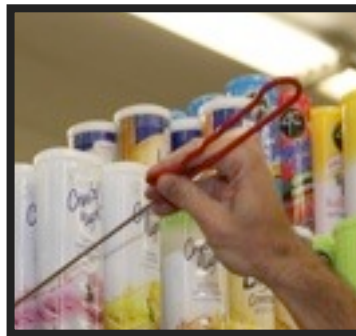
Common ways to grip/hold the Blocking Wand:



Typical grip



Using "trigger" for pulling



Overhead grip
(for high shelves)



Key tip: Hold wand with both hands, press with straight edge to even out front facing.

Use with stackable cans:



Insert wand into shelf slot with tip pointed up.



Rotate tip of wand into row, behind rearmost column.



Pull items forward to edge of shelf.

Key tip: After pulling row forward, point tip upwards again to withdraw wand from shelf.



Safety rule: Always use your free hand to assist moving rows and prevent items from falling.

Use with one-high items:



Key tip: Lift handle slightly upwards to help tip slide between item and shelf back.

Remember: Use your free hand to assist moving rows and prevent items falling.



Use wand to easily pull several items forward in one motion.

Use with larger and smaller items:



Key tip: Place tip 2-3 inches from shelf to prevent wand from slipping under items.



For larger items: Reach the bent tip around the item's middle for control. Using the "reach behind" method (explained below) may also help.



For smaller items: Steepen the wand's angle to prevent wand from disturbing items in the next row over.

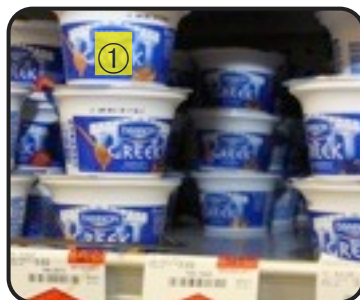


Key tip: Varying the angle will allow the bent tip to grip and control items of various size.

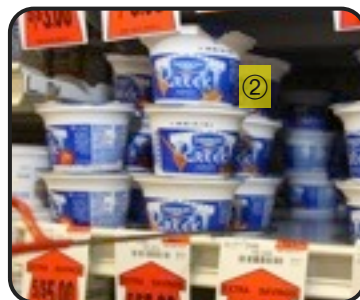
Use the "reach behind" method for irregular-shaped items (also useful for large/heavy items):



1) Use wand to grab the front column ① by the bottom cup.



2) Slide the front column to the edge of shelf. The middle and top cups will ride on top of the bottom cup. Use your free hand to guard against tipping.



3) Now **reach behind** the 1st column to grab the 2nd column ②. Pull 2nd column into position directly behind the 1st column.



4) Reach behind front two columns and pull column ③ into position. Repeat as needed.

Note: The neighboring row on right was emptied to allow for better viewing, but this method works effectively even with full rows to both sides!

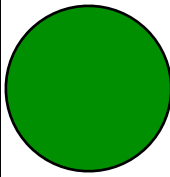
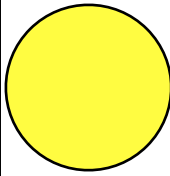
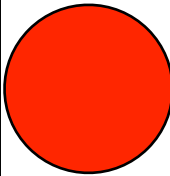
Advantages of using Blocking Wand instead of hands-only blocking:



Using the Blocking Wand

- reduces need for step-stools
- makes it easier to reach to back of shelf
- promotes working in comfortable body positions (good ergonomics)

Recommended areas to use the Blocking Wand in-store:

<p>Highly Recommended</p>	<p>Stackable canned goods (tuna/tinned meats, pet food, soup), salad dressing & condiments, spices, baby food, in dairy case (spreads, yogurts, coffee creamers), hair care products, in cold drink coolers, pegged merchandise, cooking oils, hand/skin care...</p>	
<p>Recommended</p>	<p>Aerosol cleaners/fresheners, canned fruit/veggies, liquid soaps, p-butter/jelly/honey, shave cream & deodorants, coffee/tea, ice cream pints, pasta sauce, soft-drink mixes, icing/bake fillings, small boxed items (rice/pasta/mac mixes, jello, band-aids) +much more</p>	
<p>Not Recommended Users may find hand-blocking more proficient for these items.</p>	<p>Large paper (toilet & p-towels), bagged products (noodle, sugar, flour), 2-liter/64oz beverages, large boxed items (cereal & cake mix), frozen pizza/entrees <i>Note: The Blocking Wand does work well with glass jarred items. For safety, be sure to keep free hand positioned at front of shelf to guard against tipping.</i></p>	

Get started with highly recommended items such as these:



Ways to safely set aside the Blocking Wand:



Hanging from pocket



Hanging from shelf



Hanging from cart

Safety rule: Always hang up the wand when not in use, do not lay it down on floor.

Final thoughts for working with the Blocking Wand:

Following the tips on the previous pages will help you block more merchandise in less time, and with less effort. This simple but effective tool will make you more productive at blocking and facing, while making the task less strenuous and frustrating to accomplish. Your supervisor will specify the standards and objectives for blocking/fronting duties at your store.

Begin with the **highly recommended items listed in the table on page 3**. With a small amount of practice, the variety of items you'll use the Blocking Wand on will quickly increase. **Always use your free hand to help guide and support the moving row and guard against toppling items.**

As with learning to ride a bike, you will steadily grow more comfortable using the Blocking Wand. It won't take long for your speed and skill to increase as the wand begins to feel like a natural extension of your arm. Arms and hands are not optimally designed to reach into narrow shelf slots -the Blocking Wand is!

The extra reach that the Blocking Wand provides will reduce your need to use step-stools, which can become trip-and-fall hazards when brought onto the sales floor. Moving step-stools from slot to slot also wastes time and energy, so use the Blocking Wand to minimize your step-stool use.

When you want to switch to hand blocking for **certain items (see table page 3)**, use the Blocking Wand's handle to safely and conveniently stow the tool until you need it again.

Help maintain your store's supply of wands by always returning them to designated storage areas after use.

We thank you for reading this guide and hope you enjoy using the Blocking Wand!

We are here to help and always appreciate feedback, so please don't hesitate to contact us:

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