

# Case study: Blackmores

## Overview

Leading natural health company Blackmores engaged Cleanrooms Australia to design and engineer a mobile cleanroom that would provide a sterile environment for the sampling and testing of product coming into their Eastern Creek facility.



## Background

Blackmores is Australia's leading natural health company and in 2016 was named Australia's 'Most Trusted Brand' for vitamins and supplements for the eighth year running.

The company was founded more than 80 years ago and today manufactures and distributes a range of more than 250 vitamins, minerals, and herbal and nutritional supplements. All their products are developed by their in-house experts using the highest quality ingredients from around the world and made to the strictest standards.

After beginning as a family business with a modest facility in Balgowlah, the company expanded into a larger warehouse in Mona Vale where they invested in creating a state-of-the-art manufacturing plant and global headquarters.

The company's Mona Vale operation also features a sampling cleanroom where incoming product is sampled and sent to their microbiology lab for testing. This is to ensure that all Blackmores products comply with strict TGA standards that require manufacturers to prove that all their active ingredients are genuine.

Blackmores approached Cleanrooms Australia when the company was setting up an additional facility at Eastern Creek. We were engaged to design and engineer a portable, relocatable cleanroom to be used as a sampling facility to avoid Blackmore's having to ship incoming product back and forth between their Mona Vale warehouse for sampling.

## The solution

Cleanrooms Australia designed and engineered a mobile cleanroom facility that could be moved around Blackmores large Eastern Creek warehouse, or relocated to other locations as necessary.

Following a site visit, our engineers identified that Blackmores had added additional HEPA filters to an existing cleanroom, which increased its filtration capacity to exceed TGA requirements.

After discussions with the client, we determined that they also required filtration levels in the new mobile cleanroom that would exceed TGA requirements.

With the requirements finalised, we designed and engineered a stand-alone cleanroom in our Sydney facility. It featured single phase mechanical services enclosed inside the container for easy portability.



## The critical factors

It was essential for the new cleanroom sampling facility to supply a sterile environment that would protect incoming product from all potential contaminants in the warehouse.

Blackmores also required that the cleanroom be mobile and relocatable so it could be moved around the large warehouse or shipped between other locations as necessary, or delivered to a maintenance facility to ensure access to the highest quality tradesmen.

## The process

Cleanrooms Australia worked with the Blackmores quality assurance and production teams on the design of the cleanroom. Following its construction in our Sydney facility, we liaised with Blackmores warehouse manager to organise delivery to their Eastern Creek warehouse.

## The results

The portable cleanroom enabled Blackmores to carry out sampling and testing of incoming product into their Eastern Creek manufacturing facility. This eliminated the need for Blackmores to ship incoming product between their Mona Vale and Eastern Creek warehouses for sampling and testing.

As such, the Cleanrooms Australia designed and engineered cleanroom enabled Blackmores to sample and test incoming product on site at Eastern Creek, thus avoiding operational inefficiencies and potential manufacturing delays caused by shipping product between the two locations.

## Conclusion

Cleanrooms Australia successfully designed and engineered a mobile cleanroom that exceeded TGA requirements for Blackmores Eastern Creek warehouse.

The new mobile cleanroom enabled Blackmores to sample and test incoming product on site, which eliminated operational inefficiencies involved in shipping product off site for sampling and as such helps Blackmore avoid potential manufacturing delays.