

Kmart to close Hampton store by early August



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Another big box retailer is closing its doors in Hampton.

Kmart, located at 210 W. Mercury Blvd., will close its doors by early August, according to [Sears Holdings](#) Spokesman Howard Riefs.

The store began its liquidation sale May 19.

It appeared the Hampton Kmart was spared closure by the Illinois-based company, which owns Sears and Kmart locations across the country.

However, in an email, Riefs said the Hampton store closure was part of a series of actions Sears Holdings is taking to "reduce on-going expenses, adjust its asset base, and accelerate the transformation of our business model."

While the number of associates being affected by the store closure was not released, Riefs said eligible associates "will receive severance, and have the opportunity to apply for open positions at area Sears or Kmart stores." He added that many of the associates at the Hampton location were part-time.

No other Hampton Roads Sears or Kmart stores are slated for closure at this time, Riefs said.

Sears Holdings has a large footprint on the Peninsula. The firm operates a large Sears store in the Net Center along Mercury Boulevard in Hampton. The firm also operates Kmart stores in York County and Williamsburg.

Like many big box retailers, Sears Holdings is looking to the web and other online technologies to boost sagging sales — ultimately relying less on its brick and mortar stores for sales.

Last year, the company sold part of its building to Kroger in York County, forcing the store to shrink its footprint while maintaining its retail presence in the largely suburban marketplace.

In 2002, the store planned to construct a Super Kmart, a prototype that incorporated the sale of groceries, housewares, electronics and clothing. That store was to be built in the Power Plant development in Hampton, but the firm pulled out after company sales began to slide.

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