Acquiring data from a major retailer like Walmart while staying within their rules requires balancing the technical instructions in the robots.txt file with their broader Terms of Use.

Based on the file you provided, here is how you can ethically and effectively navigate their site for data.

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1. Follow the "Map": Use the Sitemaps

The most "compliant" way to find data is to follow the paths Walmart has explicitly provided for crawlers. The sitemaps at the bottom of the file are a gold mine for structured data.

- **Product Data:** Use the sitemap-product-1p-en.xml or sitemap-product-3p-en.xml. These lists lead you directly to the Product Detail Pages (PDPs).
- **Category/Brand Data:** Use the sitemap-categories.xml or sitemap-brand files to understand how their catalog is organized.

Why this matters: Crawling via sitemaps is much more efficient than "spidering" (clicking every link on a page), which puts less strain on their servers.

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2. Respect the "No-Go" Zones

Walmart has explicitly forbidden bots from accessing specific areas. To stay in compliance, your scraper must ignore:

- **Search Results:** Paths like /search/* or /recherche?* are disallowed. Walmart prefers you find products via sitemaps or category pages rather than hammering their internal search engine.
- **User Accounts & Checkout:** Stay away from /cart, /sign-in, and /account/login. Accessing these can trigger security blocks.
- **Refined Browse:** The rule Disallow: /en/*+* is designed to prevent bots from getting stuck in "infinite loops" of filtered results (e.g., filtering by blue + large + brand + price).

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3. Understand the Product Page Logic

The robots.txt has a specific rule for Item Pages (IP):

> Disallow: /en/ip/*
>
> Allow: /en/ip/*/*

This suggests that Walmart wants to prevent bots from crawling top-level directory indexes of

products but **allows** the crawling of the specific, deep-link product pages themselves.

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4. Best Practices for Technical Politeness

Even if a rule isn't explicitly written for *your* specific bot, following "polite" scraping standards will prevent your IP from being blacklisted:

- **Rate Limiting:** Notice that Bingbot is requested to have a Crawl-delay: 1 (one second between requests). It is best practice to implement a similar delay for your own tool.
- **Identify Yourself:** Set a custom User-Agent string that identifies your bot and provides a way to contact you (e.g., MyDataBot/1.0 (+http://yourwebsite.com/contact)).
- **Headers:** Use standard browser headers (like Accept-Language) to ensure you are receiving the correct version of the page (English vs. French).

A Note on Legal Terms

While robots.txt provides technical guidance, Walmart's **Terms of Use** (usually found in their footer) often contains a clause regarding "Data Mining" or "Prohibited Content." Usually, they prohibit scraping for commercial purposes without express written permission. If you are planning a large-scale commercial project, it is often safer to look into the **Walmart Partners API** rather than web scraping.

Would you like me to help you write a basic Python script using requests and BeautifulSoup that follows these sitemap rules?