

Startup Offers Recycled Moving Boxes



Small Business

Jessica Lee

Green Move

When Spencer Brown moved from Ladera Ranch to Huntington Beach, the last thing he wanted to do was spend \$800 on cardboard boxes. It led Brown to his “aha” moment.

Brown owns Earth Friendly Moving, a Huntington Beach-based company that makes and rents recycled and reusable moving boxes called RecoPacks™.

The company has served 1,300 movers since starting last summer. The company’s RecoPacks™ are made out of recycled plastic waste such as detergent bottles. Earth Friendly Moving also makes a bubble wrap substitute made out of recycled cardboard boxes, box fillers made out of recycled paper and delivery pallets made out of recycled diapers.

The company buys trash from salvage brokers and makes its products at plants in Ohio and North Carolina. Earth Friendly Moving stores its products at a 15,000-square-foot warehouse in Costa Mesa and rents each RecoPack box for a weekly rate of \$1. The company also charges \$29 to \$99 for RecoPack deliveries and pickups.

Earth Friendly Moving has 17 workers, six vegetable oil-powered trucks and four vegetable oil-powered sedans called “green machines.”

Brown said his goal is to take a “green” approach to doing business by using only recycled materials and reusable or biodegradable products.

“Cardboard boxes and styrofoam are wasteful and environmentally damaging. What I’m trying to do is make moving more environmentally efficient,” Brown said.

Brown wouldn’t disclose Earth Friendly Moving’s sales. He said the company has been profitable since its inception. Brown said he plans to buy 34 delivery trucks and hire more workers.

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