

Budd Van Lines Rolls Out Environmentally Friendly Crate System

Budd Van Lines is rolling out the environmentally friendly Eco-Crate System, an alternative to wood crates expected to cut clients' crating bills in half and help corporations achieve green initiative goals, according to Gary Grund, the company's vice-president of national sales.

Eco-Paks and Eco-Crates are made out of corrugated cardboard with a burst strength of 1,000 pounds per wall. They are reusable, lighter than and just as strong as wood crates, making for safe transport of mirrors, paintings, chandeliers and other fragile objects, Grund explains.

Budd Van Lines, he said, handles tens of thousands of dollars of china every year. "I spoke to the industry's insurance (company) and there is no increased liability," he said. "Insurance will still cover it." He also spoke to a risk manager about the alternatives. "My initial

thought was he'd be leery. But he said, 'I'm all for this!'"

Budd Van Lines will place two Eco-Paks in each of its 160 trucks and distribute them throughout its service centers nationwide. "The lifespan is six months to a year," he said. "If the driver has to discard them he can go to the recycling center."

The launching of an environmentally friendly product in the household goods industry is particularly newsworthy because of the industry's poor environmental records.

Budd Van Line's clients have been overwhelmingly supportive of the initiative.

"The impact on our corporate client base has been tremendous," he said. "I thought the clients would focus on the cost savings, but most have been intrigued by the green initiatives and our ability to help them meet sustainability quotas within their organizations."

Grund said there will always be the need for using wood crates to transport certain items. But eco-crate systems can be used to move a bulk of the household goods that belong to relocating families.

Do Clients Care if Vendors are Green?

Nearly 23 percent of corporate relocation managers surveyed believed it is "extremely important" for the industry to practice sustainability, according to a 2010 Trippel Survey & Research report.

According to the Ninth Annual Relocation Managers' survey on the Household Goods Industry, fifty-one percent of respondents gave environmental friendly business practices "moderately high levels of importance."

Spouses Who Work Overseas Experience More Well-Being than Counterparts

Spouses of internationally assigned staff who are working abroad are more likely to report a positive impact on adjustment to the location than spouses who not working, according to a study sponsored by Industrial Relations Counsellors (IRC) with ORC Worldwide

They are also likely to be willing to complete and extend the current assignments, as well as to go on a new assignments than their counterparts without a job.

Among the key findings was the fact that the spouses and partners are a highly educated and under-utilized talent pool: almost 90 percent were employed before expatriation and yet this figure fell to 35 percent during expatriation. Moreover, three quarters of those who are not working want to work. This is particularly so among the younger age groups, men, graduates and unmarried partners.

Over three-quarters of respondents indicated they would welcome help with finding employment and getting a work permit. Less than one-fifth felt they had received adequate support in these areas.

Of the spouses surveyed who are working, 25 percent are in a different field or profession and 40 percent state that their job is at a lower level than back home.

Not all spouses, however, want to work and some are very happy to take a career break, for example to raise children.