

CRANKING OUT THE CARDBOARD

Two open-end, auto-tie models from International Baler are helping Florida's City Furniture bale 3,000 tons of OCC each year.



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**– David Clevenger,
City Furniture**



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As a successful furniture retailer with more than 15 locations in South Florida, City Furniture generates a steady stream of old corrugated containers (OCC). Many of the discarded boxes are large enough to hold couches, love seats or dining room tables, and thus can be difficult to handle.

To be able to compress these boxes onsite to conserve valuable warehouse space, City Furniture Fleet Manager David Clevenger has turned to International Baler Corporation (IBC) to supply it with high-volume balers with suitable infeed systems to handle large boxes.

City Furniture values recycling and manages its own OCC stream, as well as plastic film and polystyrene foam packaging pieces. The OCC is processed with two AT-4843-10-75-80 model balers from IBC. The open-end, auto-tie units are fed with 72-inch-wide IBC conveyors headed toward large hoppers chosen specifically to handle the sizable furniture boxes.

Says Clevenger, “With the size of some of the cardboard we have, the operator can load it in without having to cut it down to size,” says Clevenger. “The hopper is large enough to accommodate pretty much anything that has been loaded into it,” he adds.

Clevenger also praises reliability and automation aspects of the IBC baling systems. “We are a 24-hour operation, and each baler runs anywhere from 12 to 16 hours per day,” he comments. The good news for City Furniture, he says, is that the balers “have performed at 98 to 99 percent uptime since purchase.”

Workers at City Furniture have appreciated “the ease of loading the cardboard, the lack of jams and the advantages of the auto-tie function,” says Clevenger. “The auto-tie function of the machine saves time and keeps the operator in position to process the material. After only a short training session the operators have been successful using the machine,” he adds.

The combined advantages of the IBC balers are fulfilling the high-volume criteria of City Furniture, says Clevenger. “We recycle approximately 6 million pounds [3,000 tons] of cardboard annually, 400,000 pounds of EPS, and 300,000 pounds of [other] plastic,” he remarks. “We recycle all the cardboard through the IBC balers.”

IBC Director of Sales and Marketing Sean Usoff says IBC is willing to work with all recyclers to find such customized solutions. “We enjoy the process of figuring out exactly what a customer needs and then identifying the right equipment for the task,” he states.

