



ON-SITE DISPOSAL SOLUTIONS AID RESTAURANTS' BOTTOM LINE

Results suggest that restaurants miss out on unrealized savings and untapped productivity with an unstreamlined waste disposal process involving continual trips to an external Dumpster.

The more economical alternative, indications say, is for a restaurant to compact its trash and bale its cardboard inside the building, thereby reducing the necessary manpower, the time away from food service duties, the volume of garbage that must be transported away from the kitchen, and the space allotted to waste.

In January 2012, the Ruby Tuesday of Linthicum, MD, in an effort to reduce its \$1200 monthly compaction bill and other expenses, installed a Mil-tek XP 200 Trash Compactor and a Mil-tek 102 Baler in the recesses of its kitchen.

After six months of compacting 95 percent of the restaurant's waste within its own building, general manager Glen Smith discussed the results.

"We've already seen significant savings," Smith said, explaining that the \$1200 expense has become a \$300 one, despite using smaller machinery.

Smith noted that the installations have had other benefits, including more confined and controllable waste disposal areas and the elimination of the need for staff to flatten boxes themselves, then take the time to carry them to the Dumpster.

Additionally, Smith said that the less frequent trips out the back door and into the parking lot is definitely a security advantage.

"It has also helped with operations in the kitchen, as far as keeping the back area neat and clean," the general manager reported.

Such a Trash Compactor, operated properly, is known to reduce the volume of trash to approximately 10 percent of its original bulk while ensuring a hygienic disposal.

Other Ruby Tuesday restaurants, seeking savings to reinvest, have since followed the Linthicum example. Bryan Wingfield, CEO of Mil-tek USA Recycling & Waste Solutions, said recently that his company has been rolling out compaction and baling products throughout the Mid-Atlantic region in advance of further installations in 2013.

"The response from the hospitality sector of our market has been quite positive in terms of reducing waste costs. Plus they're able to devote space to ramp up their recycling measures," Wingfield said. "That pleases us enormously."

Smith's restaurant reports that it has recycled over 30,000 pounds of cardboard since the installation, a number which was effectively zero prior to the baler. Thus environmental as well as economic benefits are realized by the establishment.

"Overall we've had no issues with the operation," Smith concluded