

Green Businesses in Sunnyvale

Environmental Values at Work



Nature's Best owners, Peter and Megan Xu in front of the Green Business sign at their store



Customers are given a box to collect hangers in for recycling or reuse at the store



Reusable garment bags are given to all customers

Nature's Best Cleaners

1281 West El Camino Real, Sunnyvale | 650.969.0469 | www.realgreencleaner.com
Certification Date: April 2008

The owners of Nature's Best Cleaners, Peter and Megan Xu, have been running a successful dry cleaning business for 10 years, but it wasn't until Peter lost the feeling in his hands due to the continual exposure to the dry cleaning chemicals that the owners decided it was time to make a major change. They were always concerned about the chemicals used in the cleaning process but weren't aware of the serious health and environmental damage the products caused.

After several years of research and testing, they replaced their traditional dry cleaning equipment with a new "wet cleaning" machine that uses water for cleaning clothes and a low pressure, energy efficient dryer. "The new washer uses small amounts of soft water and specially designed bio-degradable detergent to deep clean and condition the clothes, without using any toxic chemicals," says Peter. The dryer is so efficient, that the clothes are dry within 10-12 minutes and as a result has reduced the energy use in the store by 30 percent.

The other benefit they have seen is the huge increase in customers seeking green cleaning service. "We've had a 300 percent increase in customers," says Peter. "Our customers are very interested in the environment and are happy their clothes don't smell like chemicals when they pick them up," says Megan.

Some of the additional environmental initiatives the store has implemented are:

- Giving complimentary reusable garment bags to customers
- Providing a box to customers for hanger reuse and recycling
- Providing a collection box for customers to recycle plastic garment bags
- Installing energy efficient fluorescent bulbs throughout the shop
- Recycling toner and ink jet cartridges, along with cardboard, office paper, glass, and plastic
- Installing a low-flow toilet
- Buying detergents in bulk

For more information on the green efforts of Nature's Best Cleaners please contact Peter or Megan Xu.



To learn how your business can become certified as a Green Business, contact the Santa Clara County Green Business Program at 408.282.3180 or visit the website at greenbiz.sccgov.org

