

Let's Reduce Single Use! The Plastic Toolkit for Hotels

At **(Insert Tour Operator)** we believe that protecting the environment and the people and wildlife that call it home, is important. We work hard to bring our comprehensive sustainability policy to life by improving our own environmental impacts and encouraging suppliers to do the same.

Concern around single-use plastic pollution and its impacts upon animal and human health is growing significantly. Bans on single use plastic are increasing and the tourism industry will need to address this. To help you, we are sharing information about a '*Reduce Single Use*' Guide and Toolkit created by 'Travel Without Plastic' specifically for hotels and accommodation suppliers.

The problem

The earth wasn't designed to digest plastic. Styrofoam and petroleum-based plastics do not decompose in the same way as organic material. Instead, they break up into a myriad of tiny pieces over time. Plastics generate litter, harm wildlife and are a major contributor to ocean pollution. This isn't just a problem for the one million sea birds and 100,000 marine mammals killed annually from ocean plastics,¹ it is also a problem for us, as plastic particles are eaten by plankton and fish larvae before gradually make their way up the food chain to end up on our plates.

The international hotel industry is a significant contributor to the 300 million tons of plastic produced globally every year - half of which is for single use. Plastics do have a role to play within hospitality, but all too often single use plastics are used out of habit, rather than necessity. Not only does this generate huge amounts of waste, but the costs to hotels can add up too.

Help and advice from industry experts

Reduce Single Use has been put together by industry experts who understand the challenges and financial pressures involved in hotel operations. The approach is designed to ensure that health and safety requirements can be met, and that guest satisfaction is not compromised.

The REDUCE SINGLE-USE toolkit contains:

- A detailed guide to reducing single-use plastics
- A self-assessment audit for businesses to track plastic use and expenditure
- Templates for staff training, customer feedback and customer communications

Department by department, the Guide suggests practical zero and low-cost alternatives, highlighting cost savings and including options that would require a little more investment.

To save you endless web searching the Guide details the pros and cons of alternatives and lists a range of suppliers to suit every budget.

It also provides tips and shares successful strategies on how to engage staff and guests in your plastic reduction journey.

Visit www.travelwithoutplastic.com to download your FREE Introduction to Reducing Plastic, to register for your *Let's Reduce Single-Use* Guide or to upgrade to the Full Toolkit

¹ <https://www.plantingpeace.org/2015/05/plastic-footprint/>