

The Gainesville Zero Waste News

Zero Waste Tips for Hotels

Did you know **the average hotel buys and discards hundreds of thousands of single-use items every month?**



Single-use items are wasteful because they rely on materials (such as fossil fuels) being dug up from underground, shipped, refined, shipped again, manufactured into a product, packaged, and usually shipped again several more times before they arrive at their final destination. After being used only one time, the items get shipped again to get locked away forever in a landfill, where they simply take up space, never breaking down. **Not only is this process massively wasteful,**

environmentally taxing, and inefficient, but hauling away all the trash created from single-use products is a cost to the businesses that provide these items, a cost they happily pass on to the consumer.

Are there alternatives to this model?

Let's say you've just checked into your hotel. After a long day of travel, you might opt for room service. To wash your hands before the meal comes, you tear open a plastic bag for soap.

Refillable soap dispensers are a sustainable option some hotels are turning to in order to reduce waste.

The meal arrives, and you open the disposable styrene box, rip open a plastic bag to get your plastic cutlery and disposable napkins, and open a few sauce packets. **By using real plates and reusable cutlery, a hotel can realize huge savings on their trash hauling fees.**

After your meal, another plastic bag contains your disposable toothbrush. A couple more plastic and foil pouches contain the shampoo and conditioner for an evening shower. **Eco-friendly (and budget-minded) hotels are turning toward refillable shampoo, bodywash, and conditioner dispensers.**

Enjoy your next hotel stay, knowing it can be a relaxing, sustainable, and nearly waste-free trip. Get more tips at gainesvillefl.gov/ZeroWasteNews, and follow ZeroWasteGNV on Facebook and Instagram.

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