

Mini Toiletries in Lodgings Law

RCW 70A.245.140





Introduction

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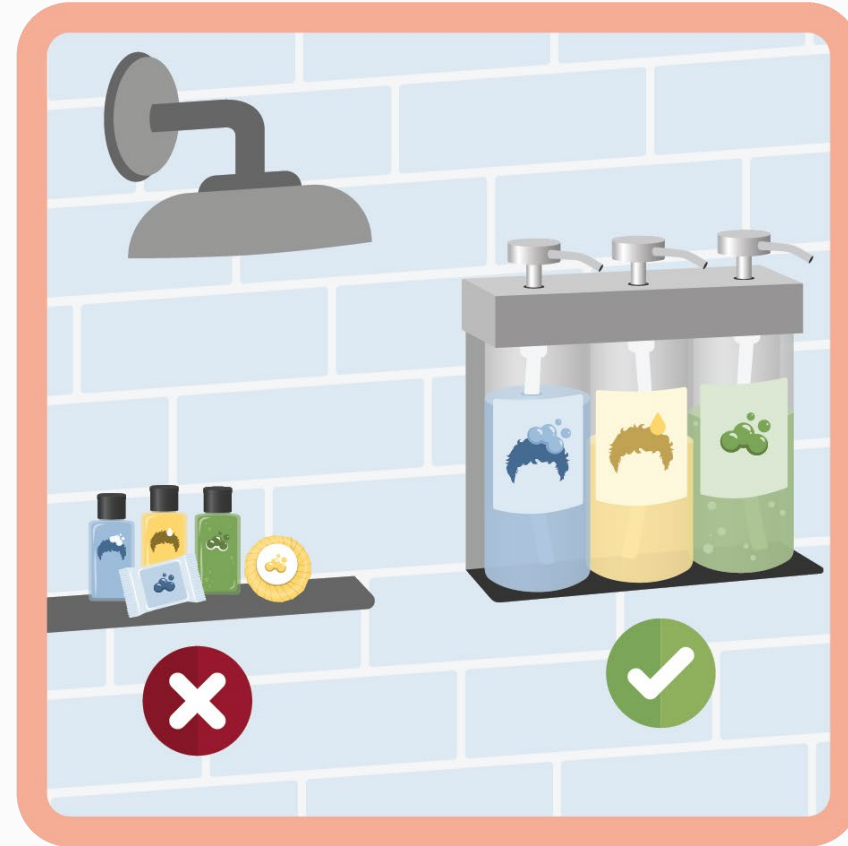
toilettrieslaw@ecy.wa.gov

509-688-5358



How we'll discuss this law

- 1** Big picture overview and intent of law
- 2** Definitions to understand the law
- 3** Requirements and options for compliance
- 4** Enforcement processes and penalty details
- 5** Resources available
- 6** Q&A



Starting January 2027, lodging establishments can no longer automatically provide guests with small plastic containers holding personal health and beauty products. This means bathrooms (in units or in public bathrooms) cannot be pre-stocked with these mini toiletries if their packaging contains plastic and these products cannot be automatically provided to guests.



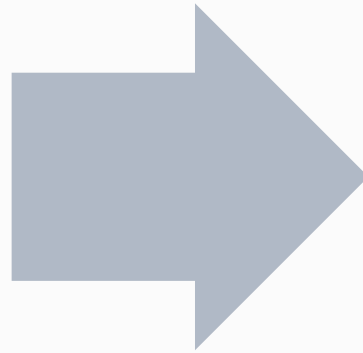
The problem

- Unused products and single-use plastic waste have environmental toll
- Packaging is not recyclable due to its small size
- If littered, plastic is persistent in the environment and releases microplastics, causing harm.

Intent of the law (RCW 70A.245.140)

This law's objective is to reduce:

- Personal care product waste
- Single-use plastic packing
- Potential pollution



Achieves this by requiring that customers take only what they need or want.

Lodging Establishment means:

...an establishment that contains one or more sleeping room accommodations that are rented or otherwise provided to the public including, but not limited to a:



- hotel,
- motel,
- resort,
- bed and breakfast,
- inn,
- timeshare property,
- short-term rental, or
- vacation rental.

Short term rental is further defined by [RCW 64.37.101](#) as a lodging use, that is not a hotel or motel or bed and breakfast, in which a dwelling unit, or portion thereof, that is offered or provided to a guest by a short-term rental operator **for a fee for fewer than thirty consecutive nights.**

Lodging Establishment does NOT include a:



- hospital
- nursing home
- residential retirement community
- prison
- jail
- homeless shelter
- boarding school
- worker housing
- long-term rental

What is a mini toiletry?

Mini toiletries are personal health or beauty products **less than 6 oz (177.4 ml)** that are in plastic packaging.

This includes when the package has other materials like paper or metal foil.



Also restricted because plastic is part of the packaging:



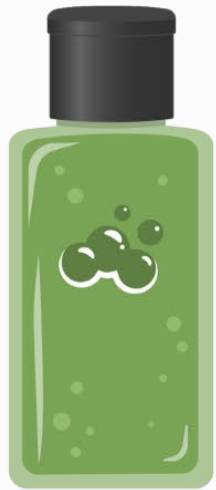
What is a personal health or beauty product?



Shampoo
&
Conditioner



Body
wash



Lotion



Soap
(hand or body)



Hand
sanitizer

Non- restricted personal health or beauty products:

Shower caps,
toothbrushes,



Cotton swabs or
rounds,



Makeup remover
cloths, etc.



Mini Toiletries Law restricted product formula:



Example: Hotel + bar soap + 5oz + paper only packaging = Allowed 

Example: Resort + vanity kit (cotton swabs, makeup remover, and shower cap) + 1oz + plastic and foil packaging = Allowed 

Example: Vacation rental + branded lotion + 12 oz + plastic tube = Allowed 

Mini Toiletries Law restricted product formula:



Example: B&B + shower gel + 5.8oz + 100% recycled content plastic bottle =
Not Allowed ❌

Example: Motel + vanity kit (cotton swabs, makeup remover, and lotion) +
6oz + plastic and foil packaging = Allowed ✅

Example: VRBO rental + shampoo & conditioner + 1 oz each + plastic bottle = Not Allowed ❌

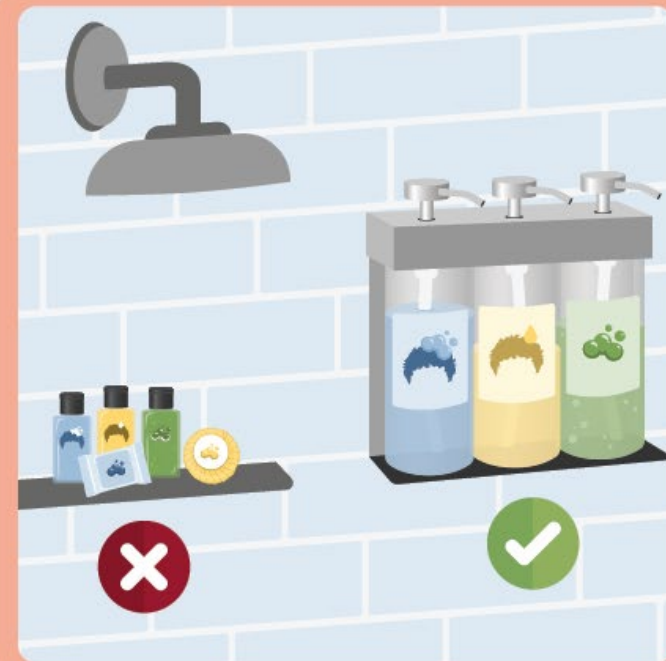
Effective Jan. 1, 2027

Washington State Mini Toiletries in Lodgings Law

For Lodging Establishments



?



On-request policy

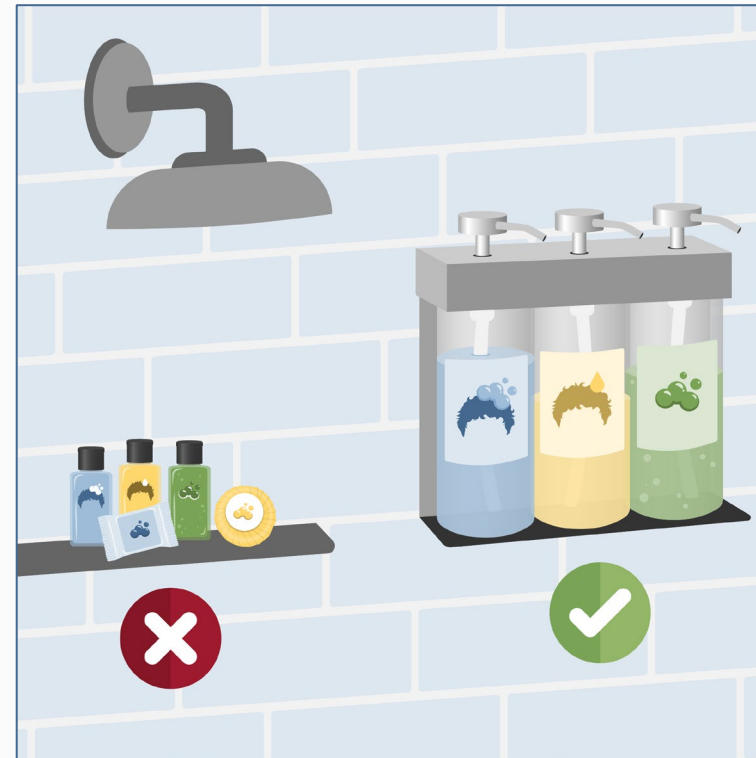
Lodging establishments can provide the restricted items if a guest specifically asks for an item. This “request” process could look like:

- Allowing guests the option to pre-request items when booking
- Staff at front desk can provide items to guests if they request them

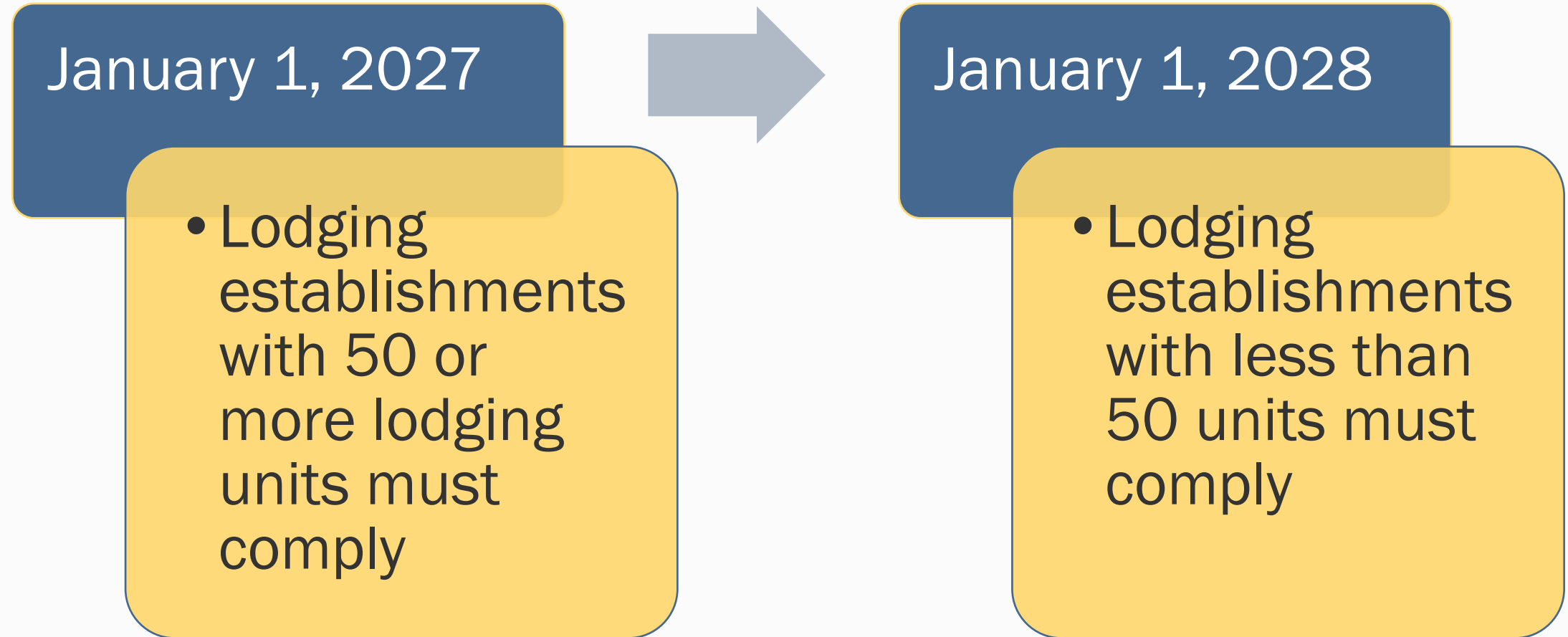


Refillable dispensers

- Reusable, bulk dispensers for personal health and beauty products are encouraged **but not required**.

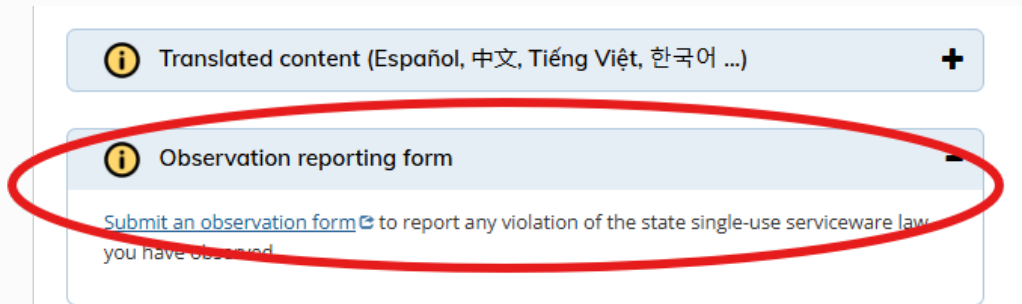


Two phases of implementation



Reporting non-compliance

- Anyone can report lodging establishments out of compliance with this law to Ecology through our online reporting portal.



 Translated content (Español, 中文, Tiếng Việt, 한국어 ...) 

 Observation reporting form 

[Submit an observation form](#) to report any violation of the state single-use serveware law you have observed.

Mini Toiletries in Lodgings Law - Reporting Violations Form

This form is to report violations of chapter [70A.245.140\(RCW\)](#), Single-use plastic packaging for personal care products in lodging establishments. Lodging establishments include, but are not limited to, hotels, motels, resorts, bed and breakfasts, inns, timeshare properties, short-term rentals, and vacation rentals. This does not include a hospital, nursing home, residential retirement community, prison, jail, homeless shelter, boarding school, worker housing, or long-term rental.

The following are violations of the mini toiletries in lodgings law:

- Guests automatically received personal care items in plastic containers less than 6 ounces, such as small plastic containers, wrappers, or pouches. Example: Finding 1oz plastic bottles of shampoo and conditioner in the bathroom upon arrival in a hotel room. Personal care items include:
 - Shampoo
 - Conditioner
 - Soap (Liquid or Bar)
 - Body Wash/ Shower Gel
 - Lotion
 - Hand Sanitizer
- Lodging business provided personal care items in plastic containers of less than 6 ounces in public bathrooms such as in the lobby, gym, or pool/spa.
- Guests are allowed to request personal care items in plastic containers of less than 6 ounces. Upon requesting only shampoo, a guest is provided with personal care items in plastic containers of less than 6 ounces that they did not ask for. Example: After requesting only shampoo, a guest also receives a mini plastic container of conditioner.

Please do not report situations that are not in violation of the law.  The Recycling, Waste, and Litter Reduction Law does not apply on Tribal lands or businesses run by Tribal governments. Please do not submit complaints about businesses located on Tribal lands or businesses run by Tribal governments.

Thank you for taking the time to notify Ecology. We will follow up by contacting the lodging establishment, educating them about the law, and offering assistance to comply with the law. Per [RCW 70A.245.140](#), Ecology may issue a civil penalty of up to \$500 per day and no more than \$2,000 per year to a lodging establishment that provided restricted personal care products in violation of the law.

The contents of this form, once submitted, may be subject to public disclosure under the Public Records Act ([RCW 42.56](#)).

About You

Your Name:

Your Email: *required*

Education and enforcement procedures

1st report of non-compliance:

Technical Assistance phone call to Lodging Establishment and Educational letter sent USPS

- 30 days to correct action

3rd report of non-compliance:

Ecology will verify violation prior to issuing a Civil Penalty

2nd report of non-compliance:

Ecology will verify violation prior to issuing Notice of Violation sent via Certified Mail

- 30 days to correct action

Penalties for continued non-compliance

(2)(a) The department must issue at least one notice of violation by certified mail to the owner or operator of a lodging establishment prior to assessing a penalty under (b) of this subsection.

(b) For the first and subsequent penalized violations by the owner or operator of a lodging establishment, the department may issue a civil penalty of up to \$500 for each day the lodging establishment provides personal health or beauty products in violation of this section. The department may not issue penalties to a lodging establishment in excess of \$2,000 annually.

(c) Penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the model toxics control operating account created in RCW [70A.305.180](#).

(d) A lodging establishment may appeal penalties assessed under this subsection to the pollution control hearings board created in chapter [43.21B](#) RCW within 30 days of assessment.

Resources available

- Ecology informational webpage with FAQ and downloadable flyers in 6 additional languages: www.ecology.wa.gov/toiletries
- Email list to subscribe to for updates (QR code on last slide)
- Ecology staff available for technical assistance: toiletrieslaw@ecy.wa.gov

Mini Toiletries in Lodgings Law

RCW 70A.245.140

Effective dates:
Jan. 1, 2027 - for any lodging establishment with 50 or more units
Jan. 1, 2028 - for any lodging establishment with less than 50 units

Lodging establishments like hotels, motels, resorts, bed and breakfasts, inns, timeshare properties, short term rentals, vacation homes, and more **may not automatically provide guests with mini toiletries in plastic packaging.**

Mini toiletries under this law are personal care or beauty products **less than 6 ounces in plastic packaging**. This includes packaging that is made of other material types but has plastic in it too. This could look like a metal foil pouch, a paper wrapper that has a secondary plastic lining, or a cardboard box with a plastic window.

Guests may request products

Lodging establishments can make the restricted products available if guests request specific items.

Mini toiletries include:

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body wash/sh
- Soap (liquid or
- Lotion
- Hand sanitizer

Reuse and refill!

Ecology encourages businesses to update guest rooms with reusable containers that can be refilled with personal care products. This is the most environmentally preferred alternative and could save costs for properties by reducing waste volume and preventing usable products from being thrown away.

The Department of Ecology will respond to non-compliant lodging establishments with education and technical assistance. However, **repeated and continuous non-compliance may result in a fine up to \$500** each day the business is in violation of the law.

Questions?
Call 509-688-5358
ecy.wa.gov/toiletries

ECY 25-07-028

Ley de artículos de tocador miniatura en alojamientos

REVISED CODE OF WASHINGTON (RCW, CÓDIGO REVISADO DE WASHINGTON)
70A.245.140

Fechas de entrada en vigor:
1 de enero de 2027 - para establecimientos de alojamiento con 50 unidades o más
1 de enero de 2028 - para establecimientos de alojamiento con menos de 50 unidades

Los establecimientos de alojamiento, como hoteles, moteles, complejos turísticos, alojamientos con desayuno, posadas, propiedades de tiempo compartido, alquileres a corto plazo, casas vacacionales y otros, **no pueden proveerles a sus huéspedes artículos de tocador miniatura en envases plásticos automáticamente.**

Según esta ley, los artículos de tocador miniatura son productos de cuidado personal o belleza de **menos de 6 onzas (177 ml) en envases plásticos**. Esto incluye envases de otros tipos de materiales que contengan plástico; por ejemplo, una bolsa de papel de aluminio, un envoltorio de papel con un revestimiento plástico secundario o una caja de cartón con una cubierta de plástico.

Los huéspedes pueden solicitar productos

Los establecimientos de alojamiento pueden proporcionar los productos restringidos a los huéspedes cuando estos soliciten determinados artículos.

Entre los artículos de tocador miniatura, se encuentran los siguientes:

- Champú
- Acondicionador
- Jabón corporal/gel de baño
- Jabón (líquido o en barra)
- Loción
- Desinfectante para manos

¡Reutilice y recargue!

El Department of Ecology incentiva a las empresas a actualizar los dormitorios para huéspedes con contenedores reutilizables que puedan recargarse con productos de cuidado personal. Esta es la alternativa más respetuosa con el medio ambiente y puede ahorrarles costos a las propiedades reduciendo los desechos y evitando que productos utilizables sean arrojados a la basura.

¿Tiene preguntas?
Llame al 509-688-5358
ecy.wa.gov/toiletries

[Waste & Toxics](#) > [Reducing & recycling waste](#) > [Plastics](#) > [Mini toiletries in lodgings law](#)

Plastics

[Compostable product labeling requirements](#)[2021 plastics law](#)[Plastic bag ban](#)[Plastics study](#)[Docks and blocks](#)[Mini toiletries in lodgings law](#)

Mini toiletries in lodgings law

[Flyers and resources \(Español, 中文, Tiếng Việt, 한국어 ...\)](#)

A law that focuses on single-use plastics in lodging establishments will reduce unnecessary packaging in Washington. Plastic containers under 6 ounces for personal care and beauty products like shampoo, conditioner, soap, body gel, lotion, and hand sanitizer are restricted from use at lodging establishments in Washington.

This law has two effective dates depending on the size of the lodging establishment:

- Jan. 1, 2027 – for any lodging establishment with 50 or more units
- Jan. 1, 2028 – for any lodging establishment with less than 50 units

I want to...

- [See the law language: RCW 70A.245.140](#)
- [Join our email list for mini toiletries in lodgings law updates.](#)

About the law

This law intends to reduce single-use plastic packaging pollution and requires that customers take only what they need or want:

- Reusable alternative containers and dispensers are available and already widely used at lodging establishments. This law helps businesses preventing unnecessary waste and pollution

Next steps for participants

- Check with your branding guide and specialist
- Consider which route for compliance best suits your needs:
 - On-request or refillable dispensers
- Communicate with housekeeping and front desk staff about requirements
 - Download flyers and distribute to staff as needed
- Help spread word and reach out to us with questions



Scan this QR code to visit the webpage.



Scan this QR code to sign up for email updates.





Questions? Contact us!

Heather Church

toiletrieslaw@ecy.wa.gov

www.ecology.wa.gov/toiletrieslaw

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