

Sustainable stays: eco-friendly hotels

1. Think about the last time you stayed in a hotel. Pick one of the comments that best describes your experience. Explain why you felt that way.

- *“I had a nice time, but it was nothing special. I probably wouldn’t go back.”*
- *“What a useless hotel! There was no element of luxury or relaxation.”*
- *“I had the best time, and I left feeling so recharged.”*
- *“I didn’t enjoy my stay at all – the staff were rude, and the rooms were dirty.”*

2. Read the opinions (A-H). Then, find the words or phrases in each opinion for the definitions (1-8) below.

- A. If I’m paying to stay at a hotel, I make sure nothing goes to waste. I even use the stationery provided!
- B. I’ve never stayed at an eco-hotel but I wouldn’t stay at one if it had a strict policy about water use. I like long showers!
- C. I don’t see anything wrong with hotels being committed to offering luxury experiences to guests, even if that means giving up some sustainability measures.
- D. I don’t like using single-use toiletries because they’re often bad quality.
- E. They might be better for the environment, but bulk dispensers in hotel rooms just don’t feel as fancy as individual toiletries.
- F. I don’t think hotels try hard enough to be sustainable! There are so many things they could be doing, such as using solar panels for energy or composting food.
- G. I take half-used toiletries from hotels with me so I can use them later at home.
- H. I don’t like hotels that offer buffet breakfasts because a lot of food gets tossed after not being eaten.

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| 1. items for personal hygiene (e.g. soaps, shampoos) designed to be used only once | 4. be thrown away |
| 2. containers that hold large amounts of a product | 5. be serious about a certain goal |
| 3. a clearly defined rule that shouldn’t be broken | 6. not 100% used; a lot left behind |
| | 7. be used carelessly |
| | 8. environmentally friendly |

3. Read the opinions in ex. 2 again and pick three which are true for you or that you agree with. Give more details.

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4. Look at the things and say what you think hotels do with them after guests leave.

- unworn bathrobes and slippers
- half-used toiletries
- dirty towels
- half-used stationery
- untouched snacks

5. Watch part of a [video](https://youtu.be/49oZt8Sl-JA) [https://youtu.be/49oZt8Sl-JA] (to 01:54) about an organization called Clean the World that recycles used hotel soap. Then, answer the questions.

- A. How was Clean the World invented?
- B. Who does the organization benefit?
- C. How has the organization grown since 2009?

6. Watch the next part of the [video](https://youtu.be/49oZt8Sl-JA) (from 01:55 to 02:42) explaining how the process works. Tick which steps are mentioned.

- A. Hotel staff are trained to collect and place half-used toiletries in special bins.
- B. The toiletries are weighed to make sure they reach the required maximum amount.
- C. The bins are transported to one of the company's recycling facilities and are sorted by product (e.g. shampoo, shower gel).
- D. The toiletries are entered into a tracking system for inventory purposes.
- E. For bar soap, it is surface cleaned and then sterilized.
- F. The bars are ground up, put through a manufacturing line, and made into new bars.
- G. The bars are given a unique stamp and fragrance to distinguish them.
- H. The bars are packaged and given to homeless shelters in the US and people around the world.

7. Discuss the questions.

- What do you think of the idea of recycling used hotel toiletries? Have you heard of any similar ideas?
- Why do you think the hotels don't re-use the soaps for other guests? Why might they get criticized for this?



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- Have you noticed more bulk dispensers in hotels in recent years? Do you think using bulk dispensers instead of single-use toiletries is a good decision for a hotel?
- Can hotels be sustainable and luxurious at the same time?

8. Read the text about an imaginary eco-hotel. Then, discuss the questions.

Welcome to the world's most sustainable hotel. We hope you're ready for a truly unique experience in our sustainability heaven! Before you arrive, we think you should know a few things. Firstly, our hotel does not permit the use of air-conditioning or central heating if the air temperature outside is similar to room temperature. But we do provide resources like blankets or handheld fans upon your request. We also have a strict 'one-wash-a-week policy' for bed sheets and towels. If you need these items washed more than once a week, you need to pay an additional fee. We are also serious about preventing water waste, so we have a ten-minute limit on all guests' showers. And we implement non-flushable 'compost toilets', which generate organic material for the plant life in our gardens. Speaking of plants, you should also know that the hotel's restaurant is 100% vegan. Also, if you're feeling active, we encourage you to head to the Garden Gym, where you can exercise on our specialized machines and generate electricity to power the hotel at the same time! Lastly, we'd like to remind you that every guest receives a Transparency Report at the end of their stay, detailing their energy use and carbon footprint from their stay.

- Which measures at this eco-hotel would be too extreme for you? Which measures would you be OK with?
- Have you ever stayed at hotels with similar green initiatives? What did the hotels do?
- Can you think of any other practices the hotel could implement?
- Do you think this hotel would be a profitable business? Would it get investment? Why/Why not?
- Will hotels keep becoming more sustainable? How will they increase their efforts?
- Will we see any of the features of this imaginary hotel in real hotels in the next ten years?