

TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

Marriott phases out single-use toiletry bottles

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Marriott is getting rid of single-use plastic toiletry bottles. Image courtesy of Marriott

By STAFF REPORTS

Hospitality group Marriott International is seeking to reduce its plastic waste by eliminating single-use toiletry bottles in its guest bathrooms.

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After ridding its hotels of plastic straws, Marriott is tackling another source of plastic waste by replacing individually sized bottles of shampoo, conditioner and bath gel with larger pump containers. The program is already in place at about 1,000 properties, and Marriott expects most of its hotels to make the switch by December 2020.

Plastic project

In 2018, Marriott began replacing the individual bottles at 450 hotels run by its Courtyard by Marriott, SpringHill Suites, Residence Inn, Fairfield by Marriott and TownePlace Suites brands. Since then, the initiative has expanded to Aloft Hotels, Element by Westin, Four Points and Moxy Hotels, and today 1,000 hotels have made the change.

The larger pump bottles contain a similar amount of product as 10 to 12 individual bottles. Unlike the single-use containers that are often tossed into the trash, the bigger bottles will be recyclable.

Once all of its hotels make the change, Marriott estimates that the project will prevent about 500 million small bottles from going to landfills each year. This amounts to about 1.7 million pounds of plastic.

In a video promoting the effort, Marriott invites guests to "Get pumped for the planet."

Marriott is ditching single-use toiletry bottles

As the largest hotel group, with brands including Ritz-Carlton, St. Regis and Luxury Collection, Marriott believes it is positioned to have a significant impact.

In July 2018, Marriott International became the latest in a long line of businesses to ban disposable plastic straws.

Marriott stopped the use of plastic straws and stirrers at its hotels around the world, eliminating more than 1 billion straws worth of plastic waste over the next year. The move is part of a growing effort towards sustainability in general and the more specific campaign to end the use of plastic straws, which are used in abundance and never

fully biodegrade ([see story](#)).

Thinking beyond straws and bottles, Marriott is looking into other ways to reduce single-use plastic in the guest room.

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