

Cambrian Cottages' Single-Use policy

What is the policy trying to achieve?

This policy represents Cambrian Cottages' commitment to reducing the environmental footprint of their accommodation services, a roadmap for minimising waste, particularly from items that guests use only once during their stay.

The tourism industry traditionally generates significant waste through single-use items like mini toiletry bottles, disposable slippers, plastic water bottles, and individually wrapped amenities. While these items provide convenience, they often end up in landfills or natural environments after just minutes or hours of use.

The three pillars of our approach

1. Elimination strategy

We are using the "Green Tourism single use decision tree" to assist the process. This structured evaluation tool helps us to determine:

- Which items can be completely eliminated without affecting guest experience
- Which items need to be replaced with sustainable alternatives
- Which items might still be necessary in single-use form.

For example, instead of providing individually wrapped tea bags and coffee bags in each apartment, we might provide refillable dispensers if this method of provision meets guest expectations.

2. Plastic prioritisation

Our policy specifically highlights plastic reduction as our primary focus. This makes environmental sense because:

- Plastic persists in the environment for hundreds of years
- It breaks down into microplastics that enter food chains
- Plastic production is petroleum-based and carbon-intensive
- Plastic recycling rates remain relatively low compared to other materials

By targeting plastic first, we are addressing the most problematic material in our waste stream.

3. Circular economy implementation

The third element introduces circular economy principles, which represent a significant shift from traditional "take-make-dispose" models. In a circular economy:

- Products are designed to be reused, repaired, or recycled
- Materials maintain their value within the economy rather than becoming waste
- The life cycle of products is extended through multiple uses,

For us, this means:

- Purchasing items made with recycled content (closing the loop)
- Ensuring items can be recycled or repurposed after guest use
- Evaluating suppliers based on their environmental practices and materials

Why this policy matters

This policy reflects a growing recognition in the tourism industry that sustainability isn't just good marketing—it's essential business practice. When accommodation providers such as ourselves implement such policies, the collective impact can be substantial given the scale of global tourism.

For guests, this approach might mean slight adjustments to expectations but typically results in a more authentic and environmentally responsible travel experience. Many travellers now actively seek accommodations with strong sustainability credentials, understanding that small changes in how we travel can have meaningful environmental benefits.



Signed: Co-owner

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