

Bonaire - Recommendations Table for Hotels and Accommodations



Items to be removed/minimised/replaced	Suggestions for removal/replacement product
Water Bottles	Provide filtered water - either serve by the glass/jug or bottle on site in glass bottles. Provide water in glass bottles (H&S permitting) that are returnable to the supplier. Provide water in 18 litre dispenser style bottles (or similar) that are returnable to the supplier and refill customer bottles/glasses hygienically. If plastic bottles must be used - prioritise those with recycled content and always collect and separate bottles for recycling.
Drinking cups	Where glass is permissible (restaurants, indoor bars, lobby areas) use glass. Around the pool or on beaches, provide reusable drinking cups (stainless steel, reusable polycarbonate, Tritan. Consider making reusable bottles available for guests to refill themselves, these can be provided on a deposit to ensure their return. Any reusable bottles should be dishwasher safe and a system to enable guests to change them daily would need to be created.
Styrofoam take-away	Where possible, encourage guests to eat in restaurants and bars to avoid take-away options. Can you promote room service over take-away and deliver the room service using reusable trays, cutlery, napkins etc. If you must offer food to take away, consider food types that don't require plastic or foam packaging such as wrapping sandwiches, wraps, tacos in greaseproof paper. Where possible, consider reusable take away containers that can be collected from guest rooms after use and washed through the dishwasher, similar to how room service crockery and cutlery would be treated. You can operate these with a deposit to ensure their safe return. If you still need to use single-use, consider bagasse which can go in with food waste or home composting, this is a good option for hot food if none of the reusable alternatives are possible.
Straws	Make straws available on request only. Identify and promote drinks that don't require straws in the first place (soft drinks, certain types of cocktails). Bamboo straws are good for smoothies and shakes as they tend to be wide in diameter, they will require a specific hygiene procedure and you should choose a dishwasher safe bamboo. Other reusable options include stainless steel and glass - these will also require hygiene procedures. If reusable straws are not an option, other alternatives include paper, straw, grass straws, pasta and edible straws. If choosing paper, don't automatically go for the cheapest option, they can go soggy quickly. Sell straw sets that guests can take home.
Food Plates	Where ceramics are permissible (restaurants, indoor bars, lobby areas) use ceramic dishes and plates. Encouraging guests to eat in the restaurant or pool bar minimise the need for 'take-away' type options around the pool or on beaches. Around the pool or on beaches, use reusable non-breakable materials such as melamine or polypropylene. If you must use single use, check that paper plates are not lined with a plastic coating, consider leaf plates that can be disposed of with food waste or composting. In all instances, avoid expanded foam products.
Cutlery	Avoid single-use cutlery wherever possible and never use it in restaurants or pool bars where guests stay on site to eat. Even if guests choose to take food away to the pool or the beach, they do not necessarily need single-use cutlery, you could still provide this in stainless steel but you will need to have a process for collecting this in regularly. If you must choose single use alternatives, choose materials that can be separated for recycling in Bonaire if they are available. Whichever type of single-use cutlery you choose, only provide the exact cutlery needed (e.g. avoid plastic wrapped sets with knife, fork, spoon and napkin). Consider offering branded reusable cutlery sets for sale to guests.
Coffee cups and lids	Do everything you can to encourage guests to take their coffee in a reusable cup at the bar. Never locate single-use coffee cups on a breakfast buffet, tell guests that they are available on request if they wish to take coffee away. Encourage guests to use a reusable coffee cup (you might sell these), but bear in mind guests will be responsible for the hygienic cleaning of this unless you operate a reusable cup policy similar to a reusable bottle policy where cups are washed through a dishwasher daily. If you must continue with single-use, only offer lids on request.
Plastic bags	If your hotel features an onsite boutique or mini-market, offer plastic bags on request only and charge for these. Encourage guests to use their own reusable bags, you might loan a reusable bag to them throughout their stay. If you need to guarantee its return you can cover this with a deposit. If guests return from a day trip with plastic bags, can you offer them a collection point and ensure the bags go to recycling or to an eco-brick project or similar. Consider selling branded reusable bags.
Packaging	Most packaging is likely to originate in the kitchen. Take a survey of all foods currently packaged in plastic and speak with suppliers to identify if there are other suitable alternatives such as returnable crates, returnable ice-boxes, mesh bags. By engaging suppliers you may find other sustainable options are available that you had not previously considered.
Toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, gel)	Remove all miniature toiletries (with the exception of soap) and make these available on request. Offer domestic size toiletries for sale. Switch toiletries to a larger refill dispenser (following specific hygiene procedures to ensure cleanliness). Give preference to tamper proof fittings and to dispensers that can be removed and washed through a dishwasher.
Amenities (cotton buds, nail files, shower caps etc)	Remove all miniature amenities (with the exception of soap) and make these available on request. Offer domestic size amenities for sale (e.g. bamboo toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, combs). Avoid simply switching from single-use plastic to another single use material as this still creates significant waste. Give some thought to what really adds value to the guest experience before you make a decision on purchasing alternatives. If you must do this, make alternatives available on request. Removing amenities also reduces the number of contact points in the guest room making it easier to clean and sanitise
Laundry Bags	Remove plastic laundry bags altogether and replace with reusable cotton bags or laundry baskets. If you are concerned about these being mistakenly taken by guests, bring these to the room on request instead of leaving them in all rooms automatically.
Stationary	Remove stationary items and make these available on request. If you must leave items in the room, consider pencils instead of pens.
Mini bar	Where possible, remove mini bar items and make these available via an in-room menu that works on a request basis. Consider stocking water in returnable glass bottles, soft drinks in cans that can be recycled - and be sure to recycle them. If you have no choice than to use plastic bottles, be sure that these are separated for recycling. Provide snacks in glass jars rather than plastic packets (this would need to be on request to assure hygiene standards are kept).
Tea and Coffee Service	Avoid coffee capsules as these are notoriously difficult to recycle unless you have a specific company that does this for you. Make tea and coffee services available on request. Provide milk in lidded reusable jugs that can be refreshed daily. Choose tea bags that are wrapped in paper not plastic and check with the supplier if the tea-bags themselves are plastic free. Choose sugar and coffee sachets made from paper rather than plastic, however bear in mind the impact of hot, humid weather on such packaging and contents, and ensure items are stored accordingly.
Hidden Plastics	Bear in mind how you could help to reduce plastic pollution that you are not directly responsible for such as cigarette butts and cleaning wipes. Accommodation providers can raise awareness with guests about the responsible disposal of these items. Most cigarette filters contain plastic and they are amongst the most common items found on beach cleans. Most cleaning wipes are also made from plastic fibres. Even if they are marked as 'flushable' they should NOT be flushed as they cause serious problems within the waste water system and often end up at sea. Think about how you could provide information to your guests to help them make the right disposal decisions. Perhaps you could provide lidded ashtrays on beaches and take responsibility for regularly emptying them. This is a great way to communicate your commitment to keeping natural environments clean.
Preventing Pollution in General	Take a walk around the accommodation and identify any bins in outdoor areas that do not have lids. Plastic items are lightweight and are easily blown out of bins and carried to natural environments and oceans. Help you guests to understand how to dispose of recyclable items properly by creating specific bins for this and making it clear which items should be deposited in those bins. It is extremely important that staff are also made aware of this and lead by example. Find out which items are valuable to recyclers or whether any local businesses are collecting plastics and cans for upcycling projects. If you do become involved with these be sure to tell guests as this makes for a very positive impact story.
Engaging Staff	Take the time to invest in staff training, particularly if you introduce new processes or products. You may need to create new Standard Operating Procedures and ensure that everyone understands them. It is also important to encourage staff to separate items for recycling, this may be challenging, especially if waste collectors appear to pick everything up together but it will drive good practice in the longer term and will mean that you are prepared in the event of new legislation that may require waste separation. Doing this sooner rather than later helps you to futureproof your operations. When involving staff it is usually to explain WHY changes are important, make the information relevant and highlight the benefits to them e.g. a cleaner place to live, a safer place for children to grow up, avoiding contamination in the local food chain.