

# WASTE REDUCTION, REUSE AND RECYCLING DURING COVID-19

## Hospitality Guide



As your business reopens, the health of your employees and customers, the economic impacts and the environmental impacts are all more important than ever. Following the new Phase 1 and Phase 2 guidelines and beyond does not mean you have to abandon your environmental sustainability initiatives. Minimizing waste and reducing other environmental impacts can also save you money at a time when watching your bottom line is critical. By continuing to follow the “3 Rs” of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle while being Responsible, we can all work together to stay in business for the long term.

### Reduce

- **PAPER** - Limit the use of printed items such as receipts and folios. Instead, send guests their documents via email, text or apps. Only print items if guests request them. You can save money on printed materials and be able to stay in contact with guests throughout their stay.
- **SINGLE USE ITEMS** - Consider installing amenity dispensers in guest bathrooms. This not only eliminates single use items and the need to replace them after each guest, but allows the property to buy bulk liquid amenities. Dispensers can be refilled, and the dispensing units cleaned and disinfected between guest stays.
- **FOOD ITEMS** - If you have restaurants or room service, analyze the menu. Are you preparing foods that go unsold? Can you trim your menu to the most popular and profitable items to reduce food waste and costs? Not only will this save purchasing dollars, it will save on waste hauling bills and employee time for food prep.
- **TV REMOTES** - Consider changing the television control function in guest rooms to a phone app-based service. This will save on disinfectant use, eliminate one more housekeeping task, and reduces the costs associated with lost, stolen, or broken remotes.
- **GUEST ROOMS** - If practicable, limit frequency of housekeeping duties in guest rooms. Reducing the amount of times staff enters a room to change linens and restock toiletries reduces exposure to both guests and housekeeping staff.

### Reuse

- **LINEN TRANSPORT** - When replacing linens in rooms, transport the items in closable cloth bags that can be laundered with the linens. Remove used linens in the same bag that clean linens were delivered in and launder for reuse.
- **IN ROOM PRINTED MATERIALS** - If printed materials are provided, consider laminating items such as room service menus and disinfect after each guest booking is complete. Providing digital access to information on the hotel / resort can eliminate the need for in room materials. Provide in room digital access to local magazines via television or phone apps and avoid the cost of printed magazines and hotel / resort information.

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- **FACE MASKS** - If providing staff with face coverings, consider purchasing washable, reusable face coverings. Many businesses are even printing them with their branding. You will reduce waste, save valuable PPE for health workers, and add a whimsical marketing touch. Offer these masks for sale in hotel gift shops for your loyal guests.

## Recycle

- **RECYCLABLES** - Continue to recycle! Your cardboard boxes and other recyclables are another company's raw materials for shipping and packaging. Ensuring that only clean and empty recycling goes into your bins can reduce your waste hauling costs and help recover valuable materials. If you do not already provide them, consider adding containers for guests to recycle in their rooms or designated areas.
- **NON-RECYCLABLES** - Used PPE cannot be recycled! **Keep plastic bags, masks, wipes and disposable gloves out of recycling bins!** These items contaminate the recycling and can undo all of your hard efforts to separate and recycle.
- **TRAINING** - Consider adding a refresher on recycling when you train staff on new procedures. Make sure they know what can be recycled and what cannot. Follow the guidelines of your local recycling/waste hauler and only put the materials they accept into your recycling bins. **Do not bag your recyclables.**

## Be Responsible

Being environmentally responsible and sticking to sustainability initiatives can go hand in hand with your new ways of doing business. We can help you figure out ways to stay safe, stay in business and protect the environment! Contact BEP and/or Nevada Recycles today.

**Nevada Recycles** <https://ndep.nv.gov/nevada-recycles>

**Nevada Business Environmental Program (BEP)** <http://www.unrbep.org/>

## Resources

- [EPA Video: Recycling During the Health Crisis](#)
- [EPA Video: Don't Recycle Personal Protective Equipment](#)
- [America Recycles](#)
- [Reduce, Reuse, Recycle](#)

### Southern Nevada Health District

<https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/coronavirus/guidance-to-reopen-businesses-and-permitted-facilities/>

### Nevada Division of Public & Behavioral Health

[http://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/OPHIE/dta/Hot\\_Topics/Coronavirus/](http://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/OPHIE/dta/Hot_Topics/Coronavirus/)

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## **Washoe County Health District (Reno Sparks Washoe Regional Information Center)**

<https://covid19washoe.com/businesses/>

**Nevada Health Response:** Website created by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services and the Governor's Office to share information and resources statewide

<https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/>

## **Northern Nevada Development Authority: Reopening Guide**

[https://nnda.org/partners/covid-19-business/?mc\\_cid=f9bb637cb5&mc\\_eid=70433e2f82](https://nnda.org/partners/covid-19-business/?mc_cid=f9bb637cb5&mc_eid=70433e2f82)

## **Nevada Hotel and Lodging Association**

<https://www.nvhotels.com/>

## **American Hotel and Lodging Association**

<https://www.ahla.com/covid-19-resource-center>

## **Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association Checklists**

[https://www.oregonrla.org/covid19\\_info.html](https://www.oregonrla.org/covid19_info.html)



*The Business Environmental Program (BEP) provides free and confidential environmental compliance and management assistance and can help your business think about cleaning and waste issues. Our focus is on making Nevada's businesses stronger and more environmentally responsible.*



## **Nevada Recycles**

Nevada Division of  
Environmental Protection

*Nevada Recycles coordinates and administers education programs, events, presentations and various other activities to engage the community to recycle more and generate less waste.*

DISCLAIMER: This guidance document is intended as general information and is not provided nor intended to act as a substitute for legal advice or other professional services. NDEP advises the regulated business community to read all applicable regulations and to check with state and local authorities, including local health districts, for the latest in guidelines and requirements for businesses reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic. All opinions, conclusions, and/or recommendations expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NDEP.