

Marriott and IHG bans mini shampoo bottles

In the last couple of months, two of the world's biggest hotel groups — InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) and Marriott International — have announced they will be completely phasing out single-use toiletry bottles. Just last week, Marriott said it would be “eliminating” travel-size bottles of shampoo, conditioner and bath gel from properties worldwide, replacing the single-use containers with refillable, pump-top dispensers. Already, about 1,000 hotels have made the switch, and “most” others are expected to follow suit by December 2020.

Both Marriott and IHG began phasing out the individual bottles in 2018, and IHG was the first global company to make the commitment to transitioning its miniature products to “bulk-size bathroom amenities.” Almost a third of its hotels already have the larger dispensers, and by 2021, you won't be able to find a miniature in any IHG brand across more than 5,600 hotels.

According to Marriott, one of the large pump-topped bottles contains the same amount of product as around 10 to 12 small, single-use ones. Unfortunately, single-use bottles are rarely recycled, which means they go into a landfill where they never truly decompose. But those larger bottles are recyclable, and Marriott says its program will singlehandedly prevent around 500 million single-use bottles from going to a landfill every year. That's about 1.7 million pounds of plastic. IHG expects to save 200 million bottles a year across its hotels.

Some will see the dispensers as a money-saving move by hotels, and of course, money does play its part. Marriott International's president and managing director, Europe, Liam Brown, told the Wall Street Journal in 2018 that it would save around \$2,000 per hotel every year. With over 7,000 properties in the portfolio, Marriott could save approximately \$14 million every year. And at a brand like IHG, which has more than 5,600 properties across the globe, that number could still exceed USD11 million annually.