

OCEAN FRIENDLY VACATION RENTAL TOOLKIT





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*All photos courtesy of Canva, Josefin Svedberg, Tofino Botanical Gardens.

INTRO & VISION

Surfrider Pacific Rim is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the ocean, beaches and waves.

It is one of our greatest endeavours to work across sectors to influence positive changes for the oceans and coastlines, aspiring to the standard of "Ocean Friendly".

So this is what brings us to you! As an owner of a vacation rental, you have an incredible opportunity to make pro-environmental choices everyday, which will not only benefit the health of our surroundings which brings people to visit in the first place, it will create a healthier indoor environment for yourself and your guests.





BENEFITS OF HAVING A VACATION RENTAL WITH OCEAN FRIENDLY PRACTICES INCLUDE,

- Improving the environmental health of your vacation rental.
- Having access to assistance and resources from Surfrider Pacific Rim.
- Recognition of being a socially and environmentally responsible business by guests.
- Marketing your Vacation Rental for it's Ocean Friendly practices.
- Working towards the protection and restoration of the ocean, beaches and coastlines.

ZERO WASTE

Vacation rentals have an incredible opportunity to support guests in eliminating unnecessary waste during their visits. Strategies to do this include:

- Providing reusable dishware for guests to dine in.
- Providing reusable containers for guests to use for picnics and for takeout.
- Providing reusable mugs for guests to use for takeaway coffee.
- Providing a reusable water bottle, and remind guests that the west coast has some of the best water in BC!
- Provide reusable cutlery sets for guests to use when dining out
- Offer toiletries in refillable containers, instead of offering single-use toiletries. Use soap bars or get body wash, hand wash, conditioner and shampoo refilled by zero waste stores.
- Offer reusable cloth bags for guests to use for groceries.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

Vacation Rentals have an incredible opportunity to support guests in eliminating unnecessary waste during their visits, this can include:

- Implement backyard composting & provide clear guidelines for guests to compost kitchen organics.
- All recycling needs to be cleaned. All recycling, namely, glass, plastic and metal, need to be thoroughly cleaned and dried before being put out to the curb or brought to the depot. Soiled or wet cardboard and paper products, like pizza boxes, cannot be recycled.
- Bioplastics, labelled with resin code #7 cannot be recycled or composted locally. These items need to be landfilled.
- Caps can be left on items like bottles and Tetrapak. Keep the caps on, and this will lower the likelihood that they will go missing.
- Polystyrene, glass and soft plastics cannot be taken at curbside by our local contractor, Sonbird. These materials need to be brought into the depot.
- Foil plastics, used to package items like chips, granola, and other snack foods, can be recycled. This material needs to be cleaned and brought to the depot.





ENERGY AND WATER CONSERVATION

- Set your thermostat to 72 degrees and program your air conditioner or heater to vacation mode when you are not home. Weatherproof your home to reduce drafts and air leaks by caulking, using insulation and weather stripping to save energy.
- Embrace Alternatives: purchase energy efficient appliances if you are in the market to replace an older appliance.
- If possible, add solar panels to the roof of your home and advocate for fossil fuel alternatives such as Community Choice Energy.
- Cut Down on Water Usage: Installing drip irrigation in your garden and purchasing water efficient appliances will help cut down on your water usage.
- Inform guests about water conservation effort in Tofino/Ucluelet
- Upgrade your light bulbs: replace incandescent light bulbs with more efficient fluorescent or LED lights.
- If guests aren't arriving until late, turning the lights and heat off in the meantime
- Turn electronics off when not in use (power bar)
- Install a water catchment system for grey water



LAUNDRY TIME

- Using nontoxic detergents, ideally that also do not contain any fragrance like soap nuts or laundry strips from Tru Earth. Phosphates in conventional laundry soaps can cause algal blooms that negatively effect ecosystems and marine life. Use laundry strips from TruEarth.
- Using the cold setting for washing.
- Installing a microfibre catchment on to the washing machine such as the Filtrol or Lint LUV-R, preventing plastic microfibres from leaching into wastewater.
- Instead of using plastic dryer sheets, opt for wool dryer balls. Conventional dryer sheets can be full of chemicals and neurotoxins such as toluene and styrene.
- Have an option for stay-over guests to continue using their towels and sheets instead of providing new and washing these items everyday.
- In the warmer seasons, hang laundry to dry!
- Fabric softeners, by the way, can be replaced by a cup of white vinegar added to the washer during the rinse cycle. Vinegar naturally balances the pH of soap, leaving your clothes soft and free of chemical residue.

BATHROOMS

- Providing guests with non-plastic packaged soap instead of body wash & shampoo bottles.
- Providing guests with a refillable containers of product like Sea Wench.
- Providing toilet paper that is made from post consumer recycled paper, and is packaged in paper. You can purchase Tork from Far West which meets these standards.
- Providing towels that are made from organic cotton, hemp or another natural fibre.
- Using nontoxic cleaners for the bathroom, like baking soda and vinegar.
- Install a Tushy on your toilet so you can eliminate the use of toilet paper.
- Ensure your toilet has an ecoflush option.
- If providing candles, using candles that are naked or in glass, using all natural fragrances and ingredients.





KITCHEN SPACES

- Provide guests with a French Press, kettle or a drip coffee machine (if possible, with a reusable filter). Or If already using a Keurig Machine, provide guest with reusable pods of coffee.
- Switching your kitchen green scrubber for a cotton alternative or zero waste brush.
- Eliminate plastic wrap in the kitchen, supply reusable containers and beeswax wraps instead.
- Using reusable rubber gloves for cleaning instead of disposable ones.
- For coffee and tea, provide a bowl of sugar, refilled coffee, loose leaf tea over single wrapped tea bags.
- Refill your dish soap from a zero waste store.
- Encourage local and provide a glass container for guests to use and refill at local coffee shops.
- Provide unwrapped dishwashing pods to prevent guests from using too much dish soap.
- Picnic kit with all reusable items for guests (ready for the beach!)
- Provide reusable coolers for guests so that they don't buy a styrofoam cooler.

PLASTIC ALTERNATIVES

PAPER STRAWS

AARDVARK STRAWS

AARDVARKSTRAWS.COM

BEESWAX WRAP

ABEEGO BEESWAX WRAP

ABEEGO.COM

PRODUCE BAGS

CHICOBAG

CHICOBAG.COM

MASON JARS AND LIDS

ECOJARZ

ECOJARZ.COM

DENTAL FLOSS

DENTAL LACE

WWW.DENTALLACE.COM

HAND SANITIZER

DR. SHULTZ

WWW.DRSHULTZ.COM/FRESHWORLD

MICROFIBRE LAUNDRY BAGS

GUPPYFRIEND

WWW.PATAGONIA.CA/PRODUCT/GUPPYFRIEND-WASHING-BAG/O2191.HTML

STAINLESS STEEL FOOD CONTAINERS

ECOLUNCHBOX

ECOLUNCHBOX.COM

COTTON HAIR TIES

KOOSHOO

WWW.KOOSHOO.COM/COLLECTIONS/ORGANIC-HAIR-TIES

RECYCLED PAPER BAGS PAPER WRAPPED TOILET PAPER

WOODEN CUTLERY PAPER TAKEAWAY CONTAINERS

FAR WEST DISTRIBUTORS

FARWESTDISTRIBUTORS.CA/PRODUCTS

REFILLABLE PRINTER CARTIDGES

HP INSTANT INK

WWW.HP.COM/RECYCLED/SUPPLIES

PLASTIC ALTERNATIVES

PLASTIC FREE TAPE

LIFE WITHOUT PLASTIC

WWW.LIFEWITHOUTPLASTIC.COM

BEESWAX WRAP

ABEEGO BEESWAX WRAP

ABEEGO.COM

MICROFIBRE FILTER FOR WASHING MACHINES

LINT-LUVR

WWW.ENVIRONMENTALENHANCEMENTS.COM

METAL ICE CUBE TRAYS

ONYX CONTAINERS

WWW.ONYXCONTAINERS.COM

WATERPROOFING

OTTER WAX

WWW.OTTERWAX.COM

WATER BOTTLES

SWELL

WWW.SWELLBOTTLE.COM

TO-GO UTENSIL SETS

TO-GO WARE

WWW.TO-GOWARE.COM

ZERO WASTE, BULK AND REFILL STORES

FRANKLY, TOFINO

WEST COAST REILL, VICTORIA

ZERO WASTE EMPORIUM, VICTORIA

NEZZA NATURALS, VICTORIA

SUNSCREEN

AVASOL

AVASOL.COM

REUSABLE BOTTLS AND MUGS

NATIVE ORIGINS

[ECOWWW.NATIVENORTHWESTSELECT.COM/
COLLECTIONS/NATIVE-ORIGINS](http://ECOWWW.NATIVENORTHWESTSELECT.COM/COLLECTIONS/NATIVE-ORIGINS)

HARD TO RECYCLE ITEMS DIRECTORY

HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES

CO-OP HARDWARE, TOFINO
TOFINOCOOP.COM/HARDWARE-STORE

BATTERIES

SLEGG LUMBER
WWW.SLEGG.COM

LIGHTBULBS AND ELECTRONIC APPLIANCES

UCLUELET BOTTLE DEPOT,
UCLUELET
WWW.RETURN-
IT.CA/LOCATIONS/UCLUELET-BOTTLE-
DEPOT

GLASS CANDLE BASES

PINA IN TOFINO AND UCLUELET
WWW.PINASTYLES.COM

PENS, MARKERS, HIGHLIGHTERS

ULTRAMARINE, TOFINO
BLACKBERRY COVE, UCLUELET

PLASTIC HANGERS PAPER FOIL LINED COFFEE BAGS

SUN COAST, PORT ALBERNI

DIESEL OIL

METHOD MARINE
WWW.METHODMARINE.CA

TIRES & METAL

WEST COAST LANDFILL, PACIFIC
RIM

UNUSABLE WETSUITS

SURF SISTER, TOFINO
PACIFIC SURF SCHOOL, TOFINO
RELIC SURF SHOP, UCLUELET

COFFEE ACCESSORIES OFFICE SUPPLIES PLASTIC PACKAGING SHIPPING MATERIALS EVERYTHING ELSE!

TERRACYCLE
WWW.TERRACYCLE.CA

STYROFOAM SHEET PLASTIC BUBBLE WRAP

SONBIRD, TOFINO & UCLUELET

WEST COAST RESOURCES

- Instead of single wrapped tea, opt for wholesale loose leaf, Thai Tea in Ucluelet offers this.
- Instead of individually wrapped coffee bags or espresso pods, get your local coffee supplier to refill reusable containers or use the same refillable bags.
- Switch from single-use soaps and amenities to refillable. Frankly and The Den offer a refillable program for people's amenities, and for smaller businesses.
- Opt for zero waste and plastic free products through Frankly, The Den, Gaia Grocery, Bulk Barn, the Zero Waste Emporium in Victoria and The Soap Dispensary in Vancouver!
- Visit Selkies in Tofino for dryer balls! You can also go to Merge and Epic Pharmacy for other zero-waste home goods.
 - For composting, you can also hire Tofino Urban Farm Co. to manage your businesses' compost





FUN ADDITIONAL TIPS

- Option for guests to donate to a local non-profit.
- Providing bikes for guest's use (could be for a fee).
- Also include shuttle schedule for longer distance trips.
- Install an organic garden on-site, with herbs and plants that guests can access!
- One of the best parts about this remote area is the opportunity to disconnect to connect. Have a poster to remind guests to unplug appliances when they are not in, and even when they are in!
- Furnish the vacation rental with used furniture, or furniture made from waste products/recycled materials! Retro and environmentally aware furnishings are the top trend!
- Instead of providing paper brochures and flyers, supply this info online for your guests.

COMMUNICATIONS

SHARING ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY WITH GUESTS

As a vacation rental with Ocean Friendly practices, you have the opportunity to share your environmental practices and policies with your guests, which will work to raise awareness with every person who interacts with your business

Most likely, you'll be emailing guests ahead of their stay to provide them with pertinent information about your vacation rental. So, your email can let guests know that Tofino and Ucluelet are on their way to becoming single-use plastic free towns.

Sample Email:

Dear xxx;

We look forward to your upcoming stay at [Vacation Rental], you are free to check in anytime after 3 PM, at [address].

At [Vacation Rental] we have implemented many Ocean Friendly practices, which means we are working to lower our plastic footprint, divert waste from landfill, and adopt measures to protect the ocean, beaches and waves. You can do your part when you visit by remembering to bring your own mug, reusable water bottle, reusable bag, reusable container and cutlery if you plan to enjoy takeout. You can also make a positive difference while you're here by picking up any litter or marine debris that you find on any beaches or pathways.

Please let us know if you have any special considerations our team should know about or if you would like to add a note to your stay.

Kindest Regards, [Vacation Rental]



OCEAN FRIENDLY CORRIDOR



Surfrider Pacific Rim received a System Change Grant from Vancouver Foundation for the Ocean Friendly Corridor scale project. This project is addressing plastic pollution on the Pacific Rim by challenging the roots of this issue by eliminating single-use plastics, implementing circular economic practices and working with youth, businesses, and local governments to enact positive change for the coastline.

What you can do:

- Let your local city or town know that your business supports the banning of single-use plastics.
- Let suppliers know to not ship items with plastic or styrofoam, and request for them to provide bulk and refill options.
- Find recycling/upcycling and composting solutions for all waste products created by your business

Through our collective efforts, we will work to create Ocean Friendly communities around the world!

**THANK YOU FOR LEADING
THE OCEAN FRIENDLY MOVEMENT!**



**SURFRIDER
FOUNDATION**

PACIFIC RIM, BC