

“Green” Hotels Association®

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PRESS RELEASE

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TAKE THE SOAP HOME!

April 10, 2000, Houston, Texas - Thousands of tons of slightly-used bar soap is discarded each day by hotels around the world. A usable product is being wasted and filling our already burdened landfills. “Green” Hotels Association® suggests that hotel guests take the partially-used soap home to use it themselves.

Bar soap is one amenity offered by hotels that is in actuality all but mandatory. The reason that hotels feel they must offer bar soaps is because travel associations such as AAA and Mobil set requirements for hotels listed in their guidebooks. The hotels want the business that the guidebooks bring, so they offer bar soap and other amenities as required for the diamond or star level at which they operate. For instance, if a hotel chooses to reach AAA’s Three Diamond level, they must offer “two bars of soap greater than 3/4 oz.” in each guest bath.

Any used bars of soap are, unfortunately, usually discarded by the housekeeper. Every conceivable idea has been batted about as to how to make use of these discards. Some of the ideas for making use of used bars of soap include making it into liquid soap by chopping it or flaking it and soaking in water. The soap can also be given to homeless shelters, or carried to less fortunate countries to be given away. The bars can be used in crafts projects to make carvings. However, none of these ideas make use of more than a tiny percentage of the tons of bar soap discarded every day.

The simplest, most obvious answer to this problem has clearly been overlooked. Hotels should ask their guests to take the partially used soap home.

“Green” Hotels Association® suggests that hotels post a sign saying “Save the Wrapper.” The card should inform the guest of the waste, and ask them to take the soap home in the wrapper in which it came and use it.

“Green” Hotels Association® suggests that soap manufacturers print on the wrapper “Save the Wrapper So You Can Take the Soap Home.” “Green” Hotels Association® suggests that soap manufacturers imprint the hotel soap bars with “Take Me Home and Use Me.”

Help stop the waste. Help save our one and only Earth and all our valuable resources. Patronize “Green” Hotels Association® member hotels and participate in their environmental programs.

“Green” Hotels Association® encourages, supports and promotes ecological consciousness in the hospitality industry through its trade association and its “Catalog of Environmental Products for the Lodging Industry”. Because general managers, chief engineers and executive housekeepers generally do not have time to seek out all the ideas and suggestions for conserving water and energy and reducing solid waste, “Green” Hotels Association® has devoted itself to that task.

For further information on “Green” Hotels Association® and its environmental program or a list of its members, call 713/789-8889, fax 713/789-9786 or visit www.greenhotels.com.