

Treading lightly on holiday Taking a trip doesn't have to mean destroying the wildlife and polluting a river.

Often located in pleasant but fragile surroundings, campsites and tourist accommodations can place a large burden on water and energy resources. Local species are also at risk through habitat loss, careless human activities and improper waste disposal. Accommodations and campsites can make environmental improvements in a number of different areas to qualify for the Eco-label. The European Eco-label lets you know that your accommodation or campsite is:

- efficient with the energy it uses;
- respectful of the natural environment; and
- everything you need to enjoy your holiday.

So whether you're looking for a comfortable hotel or a rustic campsite, the Eco-label can guide you to one that respects the environment by using renewable energy, saving water, reducing waste, and educating its staff in eco-friendly behaviour. Simply said, Eco-labelled holiday facilities are better by nature.



The European Eco-label

distinguishes products that meet high standards of both performance and environmental quality. Every product awarded the European Eco-label must pass rigorous environmental fitness trials, with results verified by an independent body.

Other environmental labels cover specific environmental concerns such as recyclability or energy efficiency, but the Flower of the European Eco-label stands for low environmental impacts throughout a product's life cycle — from manufacturing to disposal. Consumers can find it across the European Union, Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland.

Criteria exist for more than 23 types of products and services, with new categories continuously being adopted. The Flower adorns, among other items, environmentally friendly appliances, clothing, gardening products and tourist accommodations.

Look for the Flower!



CONTACT INFORMATION

The European Commission: ecolabel@ec.europa.eu

Your national Competent Body:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/tools/competentbodies_en.htm

General information on the Flower: <http://ec.europa.eu/ecolabel>

The Green Store: www.eco-label.com

The European Eco-label on tourism services: <http://www.eco-label-tourism.com>



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Tourist accommodation and campsite services

Environmental advantages

- Eco-labelled tourist facilities limit water and energy consumption.
- The waste produced by these facilities is carefully monitored and disposed of properly (where appropriate).
- Holiday facilities with the Eco-label favour the use of substances that are less hazardous to the environment.
- Guests are offered environmental information about the tourist facilities, including safety and fire safety.
- Towels and sheets may be changed only once or twice per week, unless otherwise requested.
- Staff get trained to keep the use of disinfectants to a minimum.
- Lighting and heating devices may feature automatic switch-off systems.
- Guests get properly informed about how they can contribute to the hotel's or campsite's environmental performance by, for example, separating their waste or conserving energy.
- Staff get trained to separate and properly dispose of hazardous waste.
- Campsites dispose of sewage in an environmentally friendly manner.

Bicycles give guests a healthy and pollution-free way to see the local sights.

Savings

- Windows are properly insulated for greater comfort and energy savings.
- Because watering plants in high heat leads to greater evaporation, the Eco-label favours tourist accommodations and campsites that do it after sunset or before high sun.
- At least 22% of electricity used for heating common areas, rental accommodation and sanitary hot water comes from renewable energy sources (when applicable).
- Hot water boilers must be at least 90% energy efficient and cleaned on a regular basis to keep the air purer.
- Water savings are achieved through regular leak-checks and regulated flow in shower taps.
- Energy efficient technologies such as solar heating and rainwater capture are encouraged.
- Air conditioners must have a high efficiency rating.
- At least 60% of all light bulbs are energy efficient.

The European Eco-label favours sites that curb the use of chemicals.



BETTER FOR YOUR HEALTH

- No-smoking sections are available in common areas.
- The use of Eco-labelled products is favoured to achieve low levels of air emissions from paints and cleaning chemicals.
- Guests may be offered local and organic food during meals.
- Staff are trained to make judicious use of disinfectants and other chemicals.
- Campsites and tourist accommodations must treat wastewater before it enters the natural environment.
- Campsites and tourist accommodations regulate the use of pesticides and fertilisers.
- The amount of chemicals used in tourist accommodations is closely monitored.
- Hazardous waste is separated from other types of waste and disposed of properly.



BETTER FOR YOUR WALLET

- Hotel staff help guests to take advantage of the local public transport system.
- Bicycles may be offered to guests free of charge for sightseeing or getting around.
- Savings from energy efficiency are passed on to the guests.

Hotels awarded the European Eco-label respect indoor air quality.