



December 2015

NOTICE TO MATTRESS RETAILERS

Collection of \$11 Recycling Fee Begins December 30, 2015

You are not currently registered and may be prohibited from selling your products

California's Used Mattress Recovery & Recycling Act required the mattress industry to create and manage a statewide mattress recycling program. The Mattress Recycling Council is the nonprofit organization created by the mattress industry and certified by CalRecycle to administer this program. This program is funded through an \$11 recycling fee collected on all purchases of new, used and renovated mattresses and box springs. Retailers **must register by December 30, 2015** and participate in order to sell mattresses in California.

Fee Collection

The fee applies to each mattress and box spring sold directly to California consumers or contract purchasers (hotels, hospitals, universities, etc.). The fee is:

- A flat rate regardless of mattress size or type.
- Charged per unit. Each mattress and each box spring is considered a separate unit.
- Listed on the invoice or sales receipt as "Recycle Fee" followed by the amount.

How Much is the Fee?

The fee is \$11 per unit. The law requires those selling mattresses to begin collecting the fee on Dec. 30, 2015.

What Items Are Charged The Fee?

If your product fits the law's definition of mattress or box spring, the fee will apply.

See reverse side for definitions and FAQs.

Registration & Fee Remittance

Retailers must register with the program in order to continue selling in the state. Registration is easy and free of charge on www.MRCreporting.org.

The following resources to assist with the registration process are available:

Written Guidelines & Step-by-Step Video: Resources area on www.MRCreporting.org

Technical Support:

Phone: 1-888-646-6815

Available during normal operating hours
Mon.-Fri. from 9 a.m.—5 p.m. Pacific

Email:

support@mattressrecyclingcouncil.org

Once registered, the fee will be remitted monthly to MRC through this same secure, online portal.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is a "Retailer"?

A "retailer" is defined as someone who sells or offers to a consumer a mattress or a box spring in California, through any means, including, but not limited to, by remote offering, including sales outlets or catalogs, online, by telephone, or through the mail. If you meet these criteria, you must register with MRC and remit fees. For these purposes, this definition applies to sellers of mattresses and box springs both to residential consumers and to other mattress end-users (such as hotels, hospitals, universities etc.).

Who is a "Renovator"?

A "renovator" is defined as any person who renovates discarded mattresses for the purpose of reselling such mattresses to consumers.

Renovation includes altering a mattress for the purpose of resale including any one, or a combination of, the following: replacing the ticking or filling, adding additional filling, or replacing components with new or recycled materials.

See Reverse Side for More Definitions and Frequently Asked Questions



For more information:

Toll Free: 1-855-229-1691

info@mattressrecyclingcouncil.org



www.mattressrecyclingcouncil.org

How does the law define “Mattress”?

It’s defined as any sleep surface covered with ticking or fabric that contains resilient material, such as steel innersprings, foam, fiber, or other filling or upholstery materials, used alone or in combination, regardless of size or shape, except for those products listed under the Excluded Products List. This includes new, used and renovated products.

How does the law define “Box Spring” or foundation?

It’s defined as a ticking or fabric-covered structure used to support a Mattress or sleep surface, and may be comprised of a frame, foam, springs or other structure, or other materials, used alone or in combination, regardless of whether the product is stationary or adjustable. This includes new, used and renovated products.

What items are on the Excluded Products List?

The fee does not apply to mattress pads, mattress toppers, sleeping bags, pillows, car beds, juvenile products including a crib mattress, carriage, basket, dressing table, stroller, playpen, infant carrier, lounge pad, crib bumper or pad, water beds or camping style air mattresses, fold-out sofa beds or futons.

What happens when a customer returns a mattress or box spring to a retailer?

The retailer will refund the fee to the consumer when processing the customer return. Since a retailer remits fees only on its net sales of mattresses and box springs during a reporting month, all customer refunds during the month will be reflected in the net sales calculation.

Does the fee apply to mattress or box spring rentals?

In the case of rentals, the rental company is considered the end user. As a result, a Producer must collect the fee when it sells a mattress to a rental company operating in California. The Producer then remits those fees to MRC.

In addition to this general rule the rental company must also collect the fee from consumers leasing a mattress for 12 months or more, or if a consumer purchases the mattress during the rental period and the rental company transfers ownership to the consumer, resulting in a sale. The rental company must remit those fees directly to MRC.

Where can I find MRC’s fee remittance policy?

Visit the resources section of www.mrcreporting.org to read the entire fee remittance policy and access other resources.

How was the fee established?

MRC set the fee, with approval from the state. The fee provides for the cost of operating and administering the program. MRC does not earn any profits from the program.

Will the fee change?

After the plan’s implementation, the fee may change if MRC finds that the collected fees are too high or too low to sustain the recycling program. Any change in the fee is subject to state approval and MRC would provide 90-days’ notice to implement the new fee.

Are retailers required to recycle used mattresses or box springs that they collect from consumers when they deliver the new products?

No. Retailers are not required to recycle such mattresses or box springs. Retailers may voluntarily participate in the recycling program by providing their used mattresses and box springs to recyclers under contract to MRC. There is no recycling cost to participating retailers.

Our store’s take-back program includes a delivery fee. Can we continue to charge this?

In California, a retailer that delivers a mattress or box spring to a consumer must also pick up the consumer’s discarded mattress or box spring at the consumer’s request at no charge. In this case, however, the retailer is not prohibited from charging a mattress delivery or set-up fee.

Even More FAQs and information are available in the “Resources” area of www.MRCreporting.org.

Preparing for Registration on MRCreporting.org

To have a smooth and easy experience, you’ll want to do the following before you begin:

- **Review the Definitions page** (under the “Resources” tab in the main menu) for a description of producer, renovator, and retailer, as well as mattress and box spring.
- **Determine if you are registering and reporting on behalf of all locations or only one (or some) specific location(s).** If you are not registering and reporting on behalf of all locations in one or more program states, each location will need to register and report individually.
- **Renovators are required to provide their brand or Uniform Registry Number (URN) information.** Names of renovators and their brands/URNs are shared with CalRecycle and made publically available in separate lists.

A printable guidelines document and step-by-step video are available in the “Resources” area of MRCreporting.org to help you expect what information is needed to complete each stage of the process.