NOTICE TO MATTRESS RETAILERS

Collection of $16 Recycling Fee Began May 1, 2015

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

Rhode Island law requires mattress sellers to collect this fee. Failure to do so may prohibit you from selling mattresses in the state or cause you to incur other penalties. Register immediately at MRCreporting.org.

Fee Collection
The fee applies to each mattress and box spring sold to Rhode Island 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.
- Subject to sales tax.

How Much is the Fee?
The recycling fee is $16 per unit. The law requires those selling mattresses directly to end users to collect the fee.

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 sell in RI. 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
Mon.-Fri. from 9 a.m.—5 p.m. Pacific

Email:
support@MattressRecyclingCouncil.org

Once registered, collected fees are remitted monthly to MRC through this same secure, online portal.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Mattress Recycling Council?
The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) is a non-profit organization established by the mattress industry to plan and manage Connecticut’s statewide mattress recycling program. The fees it collects are used to contract with third parties to transport and recycle discarded mattresses.

Who is a “Retailer”?
A “retailer” is defined as an entity 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. For these purposes, this definition applies to sellers of mattresses and box springs to both residential consumers and other mattress end-users (such as hotels, hospitals, universities etc).

See Reverse Side for More Definitions and Frequently Asked Questions
DEFINITIONS & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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, futons, 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 air mattresses that contain no upholstery material, or fold-out sofa beds.

What happens when a customer returns a mattress or box spring to a retailer?
The retailer will refund the fee to the end user when processing the customer return. Since a producer 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.

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 is a 501(c)(3) and does not earn 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 180 days notice to implement the new fee.

Are retailers required to recycle used mattresses or box springs that they collect from Rhode Island consumers or contract purchasers 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 producers.

Additional 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.