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# Royal Oaks Cabins

## Love, Virginia

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**Virginia Green Lodging** is the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) initiative to promote pollution prevention (P2) practices in the tourism and hospitality industry. **Green Lodging** encourages hotels, resorts, and other hospitality operations to be aware of their impact on the environment and to take steps to reduce these impacts. **Green Lodging** is a non-regulatory program, and participation is completely voluntary and free of charge.

### Royal Oaks Cabins

Royal Oaks Cabin Rentals are located at milepost 16 off the Blue Ridge Parkway in the hamlet of Love, VA. "Royal Oaks is privileged to be located in a beautiful natural area, located adjacent to the Blue Ridge Parkway and surrounded by National Forest and three wilderness areas. We try to be responsible stewards of our natural environment. In addition to being cost effective, conservation is simply the right thing to do. Our conservation policies have been in effect long before Virginia Green existed, and will continue in the future as long as Royal Oaks is owned and managed by our family."



**Green Lodging Activities.** When visiting Royal Oaks, you can expect the following practices:

### CORE ACTIVITIES for Green Lodging

- Optional Linen Service.** Sheets and towels are not automatically changed every day during your stay.
- Recycling and Waste Reduction.** Green Lodging Facilities must provide recycling. Recycling should be highly visible and made available to guests with clear signage. A general commitment to reducing total amount of waste should be made.
  - Recycle: Glass, Aluminum Cans, and Cardboard
- Water Conservation.** The facility must have a plan for conserving water that should consider plumbing modifications and landscaping.
  - Monitor water reservoir tanks for excessive usage and investigate as needed
  - Maintain water chemistry in hot tubs to prevent contamination and frequency of replacement
  - Use only low flow shower heads and replace faucets and toilets with low flow units as needed
  - Monitor water faucets for leaks and fix promptly
  - When cleaning decks and floor, sweep or vacuum first. Use minimal water.
  - Maintain roads with proper aggregate to minimize dust, eliminating the need for dust control with water or chemicals
  - Plant deep rooted vegetation to reduce frequency and quantity of watering
- Energy Conservation.** The facility must have a plan in place that encourages replacement of lighting and equipment to energy-efficient alternatives.
  - Set thermostats to 50 degrees F when units are not being rented

- Instruct guests in proper operation of hot tubs to conserve energy by preventing heat loss and excessive filtration
- Disconnect power to hot tubs when there are several days between rentals
- Lock temperature settings on hot tubs to 102 degrees F.
- Keep hot tubs covered when not in use
- Disconnect power to advertising sign lighting during “slow” off season periods
- Install photo cells to reduce energy to advertising sign during peak seasons
- Check fire place dampers to assure proper closure to prevent heat loss
- Check refrigeration units to assure proper closure and settings



**Green Events Package.** The facility must offer a “green” or “environmentally-friendly” package for conferences, meetings and other events. Even if the facility only offers occasional, small events, at least recycling will be provided.

- Offer recycling to guests and indicate so in contract
- Use only low level lighting to decrease power
- Use portable chemical base toilets to reduce water usage

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For more information on **Royal Oaks Cabins**, see [www.vacabins.com](http://www.vacabins.com) or contact Keith Smith at [royaloak@ntelos.net](mailto:royaloak@ntelos.net) .

For more information on **Virginia Green Lodging** program, see [www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/lodging](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/lodging).



**Virginia Green Lodging** program is a supporting partner of **Virginia Green**, the Commonwealth’s campaign to encourage environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia’s tourism industry. Virginia Green is supported through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

