

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Department of Beach Towel Regulation (DBTR)  
Towel Regulation Manual (TRM-2025)  
Issued: August 7, 2025

### 1.1. Introduction

In accordance with Section 42.7(b) of the California Beach Conduct Statute and pursuant to the gubernatorial directive to “maintain aesthetic harmony and reduce coastal towel chaos,” the Department of Beach Towel Regulation (DBTR) hereby enacts the Towel Regulation Manual (TRM-2025). This policy outlines the mandatory standards, guidelines, and enforcement protocols regarding personal beach towel usage on all state-managed beaches.

### 1.2. Purpose and Scope

The TRM-2025 serves to:

- Protect public visual serenity by regulating towel colors, patterns, and dimensions.
- Promote sustainable towel behavior through sand-resistant material compliance.
- Prevent territorial overreach via oversized towel deployment.
- Encourage public awareness of towel hygiene, civility, and square footage fairness.

These regulations apply to all individuals, groups, or entities deploying towels on California beaches, including (but not limited to) tourists, residents, sunbathers, lifeguards on break, and rogue yogis.

### 1.3. Mission Statement

The Department of Beach Towel Regulation exists to ensure every beach towel lies flat, dries fast, and plays fair.

## 2.1. Towel Size Standards

To ensure equitable use of beach space and prevent 'towel sprawl,' acceptable towel dimensions are as follows:

- Minimum size: 24 inches x 48 inches
- Maximum size: 36 inches x 72 inches

Towels exceeding the maximum will be reclassified as “personal picnic blankets” and subject to permitting.

## 2.2. Colorfastness and Design Compliance

All towels must pass the 'Double Dip Test,' wherein dyes must not bleed after contact with (a) ocean water, (b) sunscreen, or (c) a piña colada.

Approved Designs Include:

- Stripes (horizontal or vertical only—diagonal stripes are disorienting to migrating seabirds).
- Floral prints under 40% opacity.
- Solid colors approved on the 2025 Harmonized Coastal Palette (Annex A).

Prohibited Designs Include:

- Optical illusions (e.g., 3D cubes, interlocking mazes).
- Towels featuring any likeness of Nicolas Cage.
- Statements beginning with “Don’t Tread on...” unless tread-resistant material is used.

## 2.3. Material and Sand-Resistance

Towels must be composed of materials with a Sand Retention Rating (SRR) of 2 or lower. Microfiber towels found to be hoarding sand beyond acceptable thresholds will be subject to vacuum confiscation.

Approved Towel Materials:

- Cotton (70% or more)
- Bamboo-blend
- Post-consumer recycled beach fuzz (certified)

### 3.1. Towel Patrol and Inspection Protocol

The DBTR will maintain a seasonal Towel Compliance Squad (TCS) tasked with performing random towel inspections using standardized instruments, including the Towel Caliper-9000 and certified Pantone color wheels.

Citizens may also report suspected towel infractions using the 'Snitch & Sunbathe' mobile app.

### 3.2. Violation Tiers and Penalties

Tier	Violation	Penalty
Tier 1	Color non-compliance	Written warning and mandatory swatch seminar
Tier 2	Oversized towel usage	\$47 fine and towel shrinkage order
Tier 3	Sand accumulation >5oz	\$89 fine and vacuum remediation class
Tier 4	Use of banned Nicolas Cage imagery	\$250 fine, public apology, and removal by drone

Repeat offenders may be referred to the Towel Recidivism Program (TRP), which includes supervised folding classes and restorative beach sweeping.

### 3.3. Appeals Process

Any towel citation may be appealed by submitting Form T-102 ('It's Not My Towel') within 14 days of the incident. Appeals are heard at monthly 'Towel Town Halls,' with verdicts rendered via spin of the Regulation Wheel.

All beachgoers, by stepping onto California sand, implicitly agree to abide by the rules set forth in TRM-2025. Non-compliance is not a vibe.