



## General Goals & Guidelines

Mission Statement: Connecting Kava Lovers around the World

### Goals:

- Educate current and prospective kava consumers about all things kava.
- Provide easy access to FAQs, and general information pertaining to kava, and kava culture.
- Facilitate discussion related to kava, kava vendors, and kava culture.
- Provide members a place to post honest and thorough reviews of vendors and their products.
- Provide and facilitate a safe, non-threatening community forum.
- Provide safe area for customers to report the poor or excellent quality of kava provided by vendors.
- Inform members of the latest scientific advancements (with sources being cited) regarding kava, kava safety, and kava nobility.
- Provide sub forums to vendors and various kava groups after formal request.
- Inform members of poor quality vendors or vendor products.

### Member Guidelines:

(Applies to all kavaforums.com registered users)

- No submissions or links to any Content which is defamatory, abusive, hateful, threatening, explicitly vulgar, spam or spam-like, likely to offend, contains adult or objectionable content, contains personal information of others, is self-incriminating, risks copyright infringement, encourages unlawful activity, or otherwise violates any laws.
- No open (direct) discussion of kratom or similar legal herbs in open forums.
- No open (direct) discussion of pharmaceutical or illicit drugs in open forums.
- No bullying of members, registered vendors, or kava group representatives.
- Make sure you enter a descriptive thread title. If you need help with a certain kind of kava, make sure the title indicates what **type of kava** you're consuming, as well as **the vendor name**.
- Any question or issue regarding function of the website please post in the "Support" forum under "Support & Discussion".
- New members please introduce yourself in the "New Members Forum".
- In the instance where a vendor registers, and begins posting without a dedicated sub forum please hold your questions or criticisms until the administrators can make contact with the new vendor account in question. This is to verify that it is indeed the vendor, and that they understand the guidelines regarding being a vendor at kavaforums.com.
- Have fun, ask questions, and be active. We are a thriving community of kava lovers from all over the world.
- **Be respectful.** Aggressive, argumentative and/or disrespectful comments or threads will be deleted at the discretion of moderators/administrators.
- Try to remain on-topic in regards to the thread you're posting in. We understand that this may not happen 100% of the time. A gentle reminder may be given at the moderator's discretion.
- If you're having an issue with another member, please attempt resolution via conversation messages. We have limited resources and conflict resolution should be attempted by the users first and foremost. If resolution is simply not possible, please contact a moderator, or report the conversation in question.
- Report any post or thread that may be in violation of any of the above guidelines. Reports are seen and reviewed by admins and moderators only. The members you reported will never see evidence of said report. Reporting is anonymous to regular users.
- Members who are reported for multiple instances of violations may be placed on a probation period where the user can visit, but cannot post. Probation periods will range between 1-2 days to 1-2 weeks. The time frame will be discussed among mods and admins and will be decided collectively. Further violations will result in permanent ban of member and IP address of said member.
- If direct scientific claims are being made, cited sources must be included. Non-cited scientific claims will be reviewed by moderators and may be removed at our discretion.

- Under no circumstance will copying personal conversations to display in open forums be tolerated. Offending posts will be removed, and user may be subject to action against their account. Conversations are considered private, and must be kept as such.

#### Vendor Guidelines:

(Applies to all kavaforums.com registered vendors or normal users employed / compensated by vendors)

- Vendors may post threads or comments relating to product information, specials, and limited offers in the following forums:
  - The Kava Lounge.
  - Members Only Kava Deals.
  - Vendor's Own Dedicated Sub Forum.
- Vendors may not post in other vendor's sub forums.
- Vendor accounts and registered members employed by or compensated by any vendor are restricted from creating reviews on that vendor's product(s) unless permitted explicitly by vendor who's products are being reviewed.
- Vendor accounts, current employees or compensated members are also restricted from posting subsequent reviews of other vendor's product(s) without their permission, or publishing deemed defamatory information regarding other vendor's product(s) or business practice.
- Participating vendors may not sell kratom. Whether that be online side by side with kava, or at a brick-and-mortar establishment. We do not condone the practice of selling kratom for human consumption due to the fact that **the act is illegal**. It is the stance of kavaforums.com that the practice of selling kava with kratom implies the intent of selling it for human consumption.
- Vendors may not defame, attack, post derogatory information, or provide any negative feedback on other vendors or cause any infringement of fair trade upon other vendors. If an existing vendor has concerns regarding new prospective vendor please message an administrator or moderator.
- Vendors may not use click-bait type methods to advertise in any portion of the website.
- Vendors reserve the right to request any compensated members to remove reviews of their product.

#### Group, Lab, and Association Guidelines:

(Applies to representatives of Labs, Groups, and Kava Associations)

- All guidelines apply from **Member Guidelines**.
- Representatives will be given appropriate sub forums upon request.
- Representatives will be granted moderator privileges over their own forums.
- Representatives reserve the right to moderate their own forums, and may create their own supplemental guidelines appropriate for their forums.
- **No fear mongering.** Controversial issues should be displayed in a matter-of-fact format.
- Users may advertise in their dedicated sub forum.
- Labs, groups, and association representatives are protected under the same guidelines as normal registered members. If any outside group, individual, or registered member brings unnecessary or false criticism, attack, or any other negative action towards you, please report violation.
- Be respectful. Argumentative posts and comments will be held to the same standard of that of a regular user.

#### Moderator & Administrator Guidelines:

- Moderators and administrators will be chosen by the forum founder.
- Moderators are to list reason for deletion when deleting comment, or thread.
- Moderators are to check the reports function at the top of the page regularly to look for content being reported by members.
- To receive a permanent ban, a member must have received two prior warnings.
- Mods/Admins with issues needing reconciliation regarding regular members must be taken up with the forum founder.

- Moderators, administrators, forum founder, and any specialized accounts may not use moderator/admin privileges to take action against an account in a retaliatory manner.
- Moderators & Administrators are to conform to same guidelines as Member guidelines.

### **Uncooperative & Continually Difficult Members**

- Continually difficult members will be notified by moderator or admin of unacceptable behavior via conversation message.
- Members that “troll” or actively attempt to elicit a desired negative response from a group of members will either receive a ban, or a time limited discouragement.
- Members that are unreasonable, have been notified 2 or more times, and refuse to address members in a respectful manner will be banned permanently.

### **Definition of abusive content and behavior:**

- Insulting or coarse language directed at other members, their families or their businesses and organizations.
- False accusations or persistent and deliberate spreading of misinformation.
- Making questionable claims about other members or their organizations without any credible evidence.
- Making threats against other members.

### **Corrective actions/warnings**

- 1st Warning will be by message, and one forum warning will be tied to the account. Offending material will be deleted by moderator with given reason.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> warning will include a 1-7 day ban. Length of time to be determined by moderators. 2<sup>nd</sup> warning tied to account.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> or more warnings will include a permanent ban of the member.