



## OREGON'S BOTTLE BILL

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### ***What kinds (types) of containers are currently included in Oregon's Bottle Bill?***

- Water, flavored water, soda water, and mineral water
- Beer/malt beverages
- Carbonated soft drinks

*\*Container sizes of three liters or less*

Cider, coconut water, and non-alcoholic kombucha are not covered under the Oregon Bottle Bill at this time (slated to change in 2018 per ORS 459A.705 – see next question). However, if a business charges the deposit on one of these items, that business must redeem the container. Containers of alcoholic kombucha (0.5% or more alcohol by volume) are included in Oregon's Bottle Bill if the alcohol is derived from the fermentation of sugar or another appropriate substitute for malt.

#### ***What kinds (types) of containers will be included beginning in 2018?***

Oregon Law states that effective January 1, 2018, all beverage containers except distilled liquor, wine, dairy or plant-based milk, and infant formula will include a deposit.

- Water
- Beer
- Carbonated soft drinks

*\*Container sizes of three liters or less*

Beginning January 1, 2018, most other beverages will be added, including but not limited to:

- Tea
- Coffee
- Hard cider
- Fruit juice
- Kombucha
- Coconut water

*\*Container sizes for the newly added beverages will be 4.0 ounces to 1.5 liters. Smaller or larger containers for the new beverages will not require a deposit.*

#### ***When will the redemption value increase to 10 cents per container?***

The redemption value on refundable containers will increase from 5¢ to 10¢ beginning April 1, 2017. In accordance with Oregon Law, the OLCC was required to evaluate state-wide redemption data for each of the two previous calendar years to determine if the number of beverage containers returned for the refund value was less than 80% of the total number of beverage containers that were sold in Oregon. Because the redemption rates for 2014 and 2015 were below 80%, ORS 459A.705 requires the refund value to increase to 10¢. The OLCC has calculated the statewide redemption rate for 2014 at 68.26% and 2015 at 64.45%.

#### ***Can I redeem containers that are not labeled with the Oregon refund value?***

No. All types of containers included in the Oregon Bottle Bill that are sold in Oregon must be labeled appropriately with the Oregon refund value to receive the deposit refund. Only cans and

bottles labeled appropriately with the Oregon refund value should be sold in Oregon. After April 1, 2017, containers that are labeled OR 5¢ will be accepted by retailers for a refund value of 10¢.

***How many containers can I redeem each day? And what brand and sizes will a store accept?***

- Retailers of 5,000 square feet or more (generally large retail chains and large independent retailers) that are not located within a redemption center convenience zone must accept up to 144 containers per person per day. If these large retailers are located within a convenience zone and choose not to participate in the redemption center, they must accept 350 containers per person per day. A large retailer who participates in a redemption center may refuse to redeem all containers if they are in the first convenience zone of a redemption center or must accept up to 24 containers if they are in the second convenience zone.

Large retailers are required to accept can and bottle returns for all brands and sizes of beverage containers for each type they sell. For example, if a store sells water, soft drinks, and beer, they are required to accept container returns of all brands and sizes of water, soft drinks, and beer, even for brand names they don't carry in their store, including private label or brands carried only by other stores. If a large retailer sells only water and soft drinks (and not beer), they are only required to accept back all brands and sizes of soft drinks and water (but not beer), even for brands of water and soft drinks they don't carry.

- Retailers under 5,000 square feet (generally a convenience store or other small retailer) that are not within a redemption center zone must accept up to 50 per person per day. Small retailers within a convenience zone must accept up to 24 per person per day.

Small retailers may accept back only brands and sizes they sell and must accept those types of containers even if the beverage was purchased at another store.

- Redemption centers must accept up to 350 containers per person per day. Redemption centers are required to accept all cans and bottles covered under the Bottle Bill. To see if a redemption center is located near you, please check the OLCC website for a [complete list](http://www.oregon.gov/OLCC/pages/bottle_bill.aspx) [http://www.oregon.gov/OLCC/pages/bottle\\_bill.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/OLCC/pages/bottle_bill.aspx).

***What is a redemption center?***

A bottle redemption center is a staffed facility that has received approval from OLCC to accept empty containers from consumers. Redemption centers are staffed and open 7 days per weeks for a minimum of 10 hours per day during June, July, and August and a minimum of 9 hours per day during other months. They accept up to 350 containers per person per day, provide reverse vending machines, and offer hand count and 24-hour bag drop services.

There are currently 16 redemption centers in Oregon and are all independently operated by Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative (OBRC). To find a redemption center near you, for a list of each redemption center's participating retailers, or for more information, go to the BottleDrop website: <https://www.bottledropcenters.com/>. You can also get information on redemption centers on OLCC's website: [http://www.oregon.gov/OLCC/pages/bottle\\_bill.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/OLCC/pages/bottle_bill.aspx).

***What is a convenience zone?***

There can be up to two "convenience zones" surrounding a redemption center. Large retailers (5,000 square feet or more) within a convenience zone may choose to participate in a redemption center or to provide equivalent services (including accepting up to 350 containers per person per day).

Participating large retailers located in the first convenience zone may refuse to redeem any containers and participating large retailers located in the second convenience zone must accept up to 24 containers per person per day.

Smaller convenience type retailers (under 5,000 square feet) within either redemption center convenience zone must accept up to 24 containers per person per day.

***What beverage containers can a store refuse to accept for refund?***

Beyond the number limitations and types of containers that may be accepted by large retailers, small retailers, and redemption centers that are discussed above, all stores and redemption centers may refuse to accept containers in certain situations.

- A store or redemption center may refuse to redeem a container if there is reason to believe the beverage was not purchased in Oregon. The Oregon refund value applies only to containers sold in Oregon. The deposit is paid when a container is purchased in Oregon, and then the deposit is refunded when the container is returned.
- A store or redemption center may refuse to redeem a container if it visibly contains or is contaminated by a substance other than water, residue of the original contents, or ordinary dust.
- Stores and redemption centers cannot refuse to redeem cans simply because they are crushed. However, they may refuse containers that are crushed or damaged to the extent that you cannot see the Oregon refund marking. Also, stores under 5,000 square feet can refuse to accept back containers if the brand appearing on the container cannot be identified.
- Stores and redemption centers may refuse to accept containers over the limit they are required to accept per person per day.
  - Stores and redemption centers are only required to accept beverage containers marked with the Oregon redemption value in sizes that are three liters or less for water, soda, and beer. *\*Beginning Jan. 1, 2018, container sizes for the newly added beverages will be 4.0 ounces to 1.5 liters. Smaller or larger containers for the new beverages will not require a deposit.*

***What hours is a store required to take back my bottles/cans?***

Retailers are required to accept container returns during all hours that they are open for business.

***If a store does not charge the consumer a deposit, do they have to accept containers returns and/or pay a refund?***

Yes. The Oregon redemption must be paid to the consumer even if the store did not include the deposit in the retail price to the consumer.

***I work with a non-profit and we accept empty beverage containers as a donation, but my store refuses to accept back more than 144 containers per person per day. Is there anything I can do so the non-profit group can get the deposits donated to it?***

Large stores may refuse to accept back any containers or more than 24, 144, or 350 containers per person per day depending on their location and whether they participate in a redemption center. Small stores may refuse to accept back more than 24 or 50 containers per person per day, depending on their location (see ***How many containers can I redeem each day?*** section above). Although stores are not required to take back more than the various numbers of containers, some stores will work with nonprofits to allow greater numbers of containers to be returned. Redemption centers may also accept more than 350 containers at one time from a non-profit by appointment. For more details, go to <https://www.bottledropcenters.com/>.

***What is the penalty for not complying with Oregon's Bottle Bill?***

Business owners may be subject to penalties and sanctions.

***Who should I call if I want more information or to make a complaint about a business?***

Becky Voelkel at 503-872-5132 or [Bottle.Bill@oregon.gov](mailto:Bottle.Bill@oregon.gov)

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