



# News Release

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## Two major changes occurring with Oregon's Bottle Bill Expansion

**PORTLAND, Ore.** – The Oregon Liquor Control Commission reminds customers that Oregon's Bottle Bill expansion goes into effect Jan. 1, 2009. The bottle bill expansion, Senate Bill 707, includes two major changes that affect both consumers and retailers.

The first change is that water and flavored water will be added to the list of containers that can be redeemed for a 5¢ deposit. As of Jan. 1, the kinds (types) of containers that will be included in Oregon's Bottle Bill are:

- Water/flavored water
- Beer/malt beverages
- Soda water/mineral water
- Carbonated soft drinks

All redeemable containers must be labeled with the OR 5¢ deposit on the label. Only containers purchased in Oregon are eligible for a 5¢ redemption.

The second change is that larger retail outlets of 5,000 square feet or more will be required to take back bottle and can returns of all brands and sizes of beverage containers for each kind (type) they sell.

For example, if a store that is 5,000 square feet or more sells water and soft drinks, then they are required to accept bottle returns of *all* brands and sizes of water and soft drinks – even brands that they don't carry in their stores. However, they would not be required to accept beer containers, because they do not sell that kind (type) of product.

This change does not affect retailers under 5,000 square feet as they may continue to accept back only containers of the same brand and size that they sell.

Retail stores can limit how many containers can be redeemed per person per day. Consumers may be limited to a maximum of 144 containers per person per day at retailers 5,000 square feet or more. At retailers under 5,000 square feet, the maximum may be set at 50 containers per person per day.

In anticipation of increased call volume, the OLCC has set up a temporary phone line dedicated to the bottle bill expansion. Consumers and retailers with bottle bill questions can call 1888-h2o-2009 (1888-426-2009) Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm Jan. 1 through mid-February.

For more information about the bottle bill, please visit the OLCC's web site at [http://www.oregon.gov/OLCC/bottle\\_bill.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OLCC/bottle_bill.shtml)

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*Promoting the public interest through responsible alcohol sales and service.*

## Bottle Bill Fun Facts

Did you know?

- Oregon's Bottle Bill was the very first bottle deposit program in the United States? Since then, ten other states have adopted similar programs.
- Since 1971, the amount of beverage containers in litter along Oregon roadsides has dropped from 40 percent to 6 percent.
- Recycled beverage containers are used to make hundreds of products including fleece jackets, carpeting, baseball bats, license plates, and insulation as well as new beverage containers.
- Recycling a ton of plastic bottles saves approximately 3.8 barrels of oil.
- In 2007, approximately 3,745 tons of plastic bottles were recycled through the Oregon Bottle Bill. That amount is expected to be more than double with the addition of water bottles.
- Recycling one pound of PET (polyethylene terphthalate) plastic bottles saves approximately 12,000 BTUs of energy.
- Using recycled materials uses 2/3 less energy than using raw (virgin) materials.

