

COVID-19

MALT BEVERAGE (BEER) DISPOSAL

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

While the Governor's Emergency Declarations remain in effect, on-premises consumption of alcoholic beverages will continue to be *limited or not allowed* due to social distancing restrictions and Risk Level Framework found [here](#). This could continue to result in an excess of unused beer accumulating in restaurants, bars, event facilities, warehouses, breweries, and brew-pubs.

Beer has a relatively short shelf life which means much of this beer has or will pass its sell-by date while the Governor's Orders are in effect. As a result, Oregon businesses with large amounts of beer about to expire need to be able to safely dispose of it.

WHAT ARE THE PREFERRED OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO RETAILERS TO SAFELY DISPOSE OF BEER?

For the purpose of this guidance, Full On-Premises, Limited On-Premises, Off-Premises, and Brewery-Public House licensees may:

- Check with the wholesaler or manufacturer who sold them the beer. Many wholesalers and manufacturers are able to accept the return of beer that has or will pass its sell-by date while the Governor's Emergency Declarations are in effect.
 - **The product must be expired or near expiration at the point of requesting or accepting the return.**
 - Wholesalers or manufacturers may **only accept expired or near expired product** for return or credit if the product is in a **factory-sealed container**, which includes kegs. Partially filled containers are **not allowed** to be returned or accepted.
 - Wholesalers or manufacturers are not required to accept returns.
- Licensees are not required to obtain prior approval from the OLCC prior to returning beer or accepting returns of beer in accordance with these guidelines.
- Check with Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative (OBRC) at this email nbohe@obrc.com as it may be able to provide assistance.

WHAT ARE THE PREFERRED OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO WHOLESALERS AND MANUFACTURERS TO SAFELY DISPOSE OF BEER?

Repurpose as a donation for use in the manufacture of hand sanitizer

- Provide it to an Oregon Distillery for the purpose of making hand sanitizer.
 - Licensees may provide the beer directly to an Oregon distillery. The Oregon distillery then makes and distributes the hand sanitizer; or
 - Contact OLCC staff who will attempt to "match" licensees with an Oregon distillery that wants product to convert into hand sanitizer. To contact the OLCC with a matchmaking request, email: OLCC.HandSanitizer@Oregon.gov

Transfer (or make arrangements for transfer) to a destruction or disposal facility

- Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative (OBRC) may be able to provide assistance with disposal of packaged and/or bulk beer. Contact email: nbohe@obrc.com
- If a licensee's facility is not connected to a sewage system, contact the local wastewater treatment facility operator (this is typically a city government function) to make arrangements for disposal at a treatment facility.

Disposal of waste beer through the sewer system

- A licensee who chooses this option should check with its local wastewater treatment facility (this is typically a city government function) to confirm that the amount of beer waste can be appropriately disposed of through the sewer system.

OLCC privilege tax refund and credit requests

- Oregon wholesalers and manufacturers of beer may go [here](#) for information from the OLCC on how to obtain a privilege tax refund or credit for expired or donated beer.

TTB federal excise tax refunds

- For information on this topic,
 - <https://www.ttb.gov/images/newsletters/archives/2020/ttb-newsletter05012020sp.html>
 - Contact the TTB directly: [TTB](#)

WHAT IF THE PREFERRED OPTIONS ARE NOT AVAILABLE?

Contact the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to discuss potential alternatives.

For a list of counties served by the DEQ contacts listed below, please visit DEQ's website at <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Pages/Offices.aspx>.

Contact these DEQ representatives:

- DEQ Eastern Region: Larry Brown, 541-633-2025
- DEQ Northwest Region: Tim Ruby, 503-229-5292
- DEQ Western Region: Ranei Nomura, 503-378-5081