

Dwr Cymru Welsh Water Regulatory Position Statement
Disposal of Waste Alcoholic Beverages from Licensed Premises due to Covid -19 Restrictions

During the current Covid-19 outbreak, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water is committed to supporting our business customers. This position statement is aimed at operators of licensed premises within the Dwr Cymru Welsh Water geographical area who have unused alcoholic beverages (beer, cider, lager etc) arising due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It outlines some potential options for disposal and what to consider in deciding how to deal with this waste.

When all non-essential businesses have been ordered to close to control the spread of COVID-19, many establishments have stocks of alcoholic beverages that they may be unable to sell. As the Welsh Government (UK Central Government in England) has relaxed the rules on businesses, some licensed premises may need to clear their storage areas of beverages which are unfit for consumption in order to re-stock.

Beverages which are unfit for consumption and therefore require disposal are waste, and this waste must be managed as such under the current regulations in Wales or England as required.

The following is a link to the current Welsh Government guidance:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-12/guidance-on-applying-the-waste-hierarchy.pdf>

The following is a link to the current UK Central Government guidance in England:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-applying-the-waste-hierarchy>

There are a number of options available to businesses to manage this waste, such as:

- *Can the waste beverages be returned to the brewery or manufacturer for correct disposal?*
- *Can the waste beverage be re-routed to another manufacturing process, e.g. distillation to produce industrial alcohol?*
- *Can the waste beverages be taken to an anaerobic digestion or composting facility?*
Can the waste beverage be applied to land? This may be to your own land, e.g. a golf course, or to agricultural land. If you wish to consider this option you must contact Natural Resources Wales (Environment Agency in England) for advice before proceeding, as this use will be regulated and restricted.
- *Can the waste beverage be disposed of to the public foul sewer?*

The option of sewer disposal must only be considered as a last resort. (continued page 2)

If disposal to sewer is the only option you will require the formal permission of Dwr Cymru Welsh Water **before** discharging any product to the sewer network under the Water Industry Act 1991. Waste alcoholic beverages are highly polluting substances which can have severe effects on the environment if not controlled. Any unauthorised discharge to sewer is a criminal offence.

In order to obtain formal permission it is necessary to provide information on the location of the premises and the quantities of product for disposal. If Dwr Cymru Welsh Water can accept the discharge and grant permission there will be a fee levied for this disposal, currently £358.12 (no VAT), as per the Scheme of Charges.

For disposal to sewer please contact Trade.Effluent@dwrcymru.com.

You **must not** dispose of waste beverages:

- to a private sewage works or septic tank. There is a high risk of overloading the treatment process, potentially causing costly damage and polluting receiving waters.
- down any drain, especially a surface water drain. As previously stated, waste alcoholic beverages are highly polluting substances, which if allowed to enter a watercourse can cause serious environmental damage such as fish kills.