

Wessex Water Regulatory Position Statement for the disposal of waste beer during the COVID-19 Pandemic - Winter/Spring 2021

As pubs, restaurants and other establishments have had to close again due to the COVID-19 pandemic many of these businesses have been left with waste stock of beer and other alcoholic drinks requiring disposal.

We recognise the challenge facing many businesses in this difficult period and want to help where possible. Where it is not possible to return waste beer to the brewery/retailer or dispose of it via an alternative method, Wessex Water will temporarily allow waste beer to be disposed of into our wastewater network under the following guidance.

Due to the changing nature of the situation, the period for which this position statement applies will be reviewed frequently and available on the Wessex Water website at www.wessexwater.co.uk/services/businesses/trade-effluent.

Discharging waste beer

Each disposal enquiry will need to be considered individually to assess the capacity of the sewerage network it discharges into and the potential impact on the environment. Where possible discharges will be approved with the following conditions:

- Discharge is to the public foul sewer only not surface water drainage.
- Discharge does not contain solid material which could block or impede flow in the sewerage network.
- Discharge rate is restricted so as not to overwhelm local sewers and cause flooding.
- Discharge is carried out at a time when the receiving treatment process is most likely to be able to accommodate the additional biological load.
- Discharge must take place from the premises indicated on the application.
- Discharge is required due to restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Applications

We will accept applications on behalf of individual or multiple premises.

To make an application to discharge of waste beer within the Wessex Water region please contact us at trade.effluent@wessexwater.co.uk with the following details.

1. **Location** - The exact address of the premises from which you intend to discharge.
2. **Quantity** - The volume of beer/cider to be discharged.

We will use the information to assess whether or not we can safely receive the proposed discharge and respond with guidance as soon as possible.

There will be no charge to your business for applications to discharge waste beer.

Legislation

Beer has a very high Biological Oxygen Demand content which has the potential to adversely impact our Water Recycling Centres and the environment. The discharge of beer during the COVID-19 pandemic will still be covered by legislation. Under Section 111 of the Water Industry Act 1991 it is an offence to discharge anything to the sewer which will adversely impact on the sewerage network or receiving Water Recycling Centre.