

Anglian Water: Guidance on discharging beer, cider etc. to the foul sewer in our region

Why we need to control the discharge of beer into sewers

Our sewers and water recycling centres (also known as wastewater treatment works) exist to protect both public health and the environment - they will do exactly that if used appropriately.

Each single cubic metre (1000 litres) of beer discharged to our water recycling centres delivers a load equivalent to the domestic sewage (e.g. toilets, baths, showers, sinks etc.) received in a day by over 1000 people. In the context of sewage treatment beer is therefore a very strong liquid. This is why it has to be very carefully managed, with phased timing of discharges and regulated flow rates to ensure that our biological wastewater treatment processes can cope with it. These processes could easily be overwhelmed by unregulated discharges of beer made to the foul sewer. This may mean that we are unable to effectively treat the incoming sewage which could result in high levels of ammonia and other pollutants entering a watercourse causing environmental damage including fish kills.

Our own discharges from water recycling centres into rivers, streams and other watercourses are regulated by the Environment Agency who place quality and flow/volume conditions on us by way of a discharge permit – it's an offence for us to breach the conditions of the permit.

Change of process

From 15 February 2021 Anglian Water will once again be accepting direct applications for permission to dispose of beer and similar liquids to the public foul sewer. Direct applications will be accepted until 30 September 2021, after this date all applications must be made via your water/sewerage retailer. If we are able to accept the discharge, and to ensure that we are dealing with all businesses in a consistent manner, we will now issue a legal document referred to as a Consent and apply wholesale charges. For details of how to apply please see the '*Obtaining permission to discharge*' section below.

Enforcement

Waste beer which is disposed of to a sewer is classified as trade effluent in law and its unauthorised discharge is an offence under the Water Industry Act 1991. Should we experience operational issues as a result of an unauthorised discharge, including one that is not compliant with the Consent issued, Anglian Water has the option of taking enforcement action against the discharger. This could result in unlimited fines via the courts and associated costs being recovered. These may include costs relating to environmental clean-up operations and the re-stocking of watercourses, both of which have the potential to be very significant.

Compliance with our instructions

It is therefore critical that beer is disposed of in accordance with the Consent that we issue and that nobody discharges in an unauthorised manner. This includes discharging within the specified dates and times and complying with conditions relating to flow rate and total volume.

Obtaining permission to discharge

If you wish to dispose of beer into our sewerage system you will need to apply by one of the following means:

1 - Completing an application (form G/03) via your water/sewerage retailer who will then apply to Anglian Water on your behalf.

2 – Directly by email to TradeEffluent@anglianwater.co.uk (Note: this does not require a G/03 form but is subject to the minimum information requirements stated below).

We will acknowledge receipt of your application. Please note that your application will constitute 'notice' under section 119 of the Water Industry Act 1991 ('Application for consent').

Whichever option you choose, and to avoid a rejected application, please ensure that the following information is included:

- The legal entity which owns or occupies the outlet - this may be a Ltd company, sole trader, partnership etc. including the Companies House number if applicable (the application must only be made by the owner or occupier)
- The name and address of the premises (including the postcode)
- A contact name and email address associated with the premises (for issue of the Consent)
- The sewerage supply point ID (also known as a 'SPID', you will find this on your bill)
- The total volume of beer and other liquids that you wish to dispose of (in litres)

On receipt of your application we will undertake an operational assessment to determine whether we can accommodate your proposed discharge. If we are unable to accept the discharge, we will let you know at the earliest opportunity.

Please note that the retail market level of service for issuing a Consent is two months from the date we receive your application, so please bear this in mind if you need to discharge by a specific date. As such we recommend that you advise us of the date(s) that you wish to make the discharge. We will of course endeavour to meet any specific requirements that you may have but cannot guarantee this.

We also advise you to contact us only when you are in a position to dispose of all of your waste beer. This will avoid the need for multiple applications, noting that Anglian Water will raise wholesale charges to retailers on a per-discharge basis to cover operational and administrative costs (application fee + Mogden). As such we strongly recommend that you confirm any charges that may apply with your water/sewerage retailer before making an application – you can find your retailer here: <https://www.open-water.org.uk/find-your-current-retailer/>.

Please note that if you are unable to discharge within the timeframe stated in the Consent you will need to reapply via the abovementioned process and may therefore incur increased costs. We also recommend that you complete any administrative requirements prior to contacting us, e.g. those required by HMRC.

We will also accept bulk/multi-site requests as long as they include the same information as that referred to above. However, all such applications must be made via the relevant water/sewerage retailer. If you are part of a chain or are brewery-owned, please ensure that only one application is made e.g. either via a single application or as part of a bulk application. Multiple applications for the same site will impact on our ability to process Consents in a timely manner.

Further information

This [link](#) will provide you with much more information about trade effluent control and why it is so important, please take a moment to read it. Should you have any further queries please contact your retailer.

Thank you.