

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 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 01 August 2020 our COVID-19 regulatory position statement no longer applies, and we are not accepting direct requests for permission to discharge beer into our sewers. This includes requests for reassessments where the original approval was given before this date. From this date onwards, and to ensure that we are dealing with all businesses in a consistent manner, you will now need to contact your retailer to obtain the written consent of Anglian Water in order to legally discharge beer - see '*Obtaining permission to discharge*' 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, or 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 for a temporary trade effluent consent by completing a 'G/03 application form' via your retailer. Your retailer will apply to Anglian Water on your behalf. When the form is completed, and to avoid a rejected application, the following must be included:

- The legal entity which operates the outlet (this may be a Ltd company, sole trader, partnership etc.)
- The name and address of the premises (including the postcode) and a contact email address
- The supply point ID (also known as a 'SPID')
- The total volume of beer and other liquids that you wish to dispose of (in litres)

On receipt of the application form from your retailer we will undertake an operational assessment to determine whether we can accommodate your proposed discharge. If we are able to accept the discharge, we will issue a legal document called a trade effluent consent. The retail market level of service for issuing a consent is two months after receipt of the application from your retailer, so please bear this in mind if you need to discharge by a specific date. We will also accept 'bulk' requests as long as they include the same information as that contained in the G/03 form. Anglian Water will raise wholesale charges to retailers to cover operational/administrative costs (application fee + Mogden).

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.