

With the passage of [Public Act 21-58, An Act Concerning Solid Waste Management](#), Connecticut is undergoing the most significant transformation of its beverage container redemption program – also known as the Bottle Bill – since the program was first implemented in 1980. The most significant changes in Public Act 21-58 included 1) an increase in the handling fee paid to retailers and operators of redemption centers; 2) an expansion of the types of beverages covered to include several new item categories – including sports drinks, energy drinks, and juices – beginning on January 1, 2023; and 3) an increase in the deposit amount from \$0.05 to \$0.10 beginning on January 1, 2024.

On November 29, 2022, Governor Lamont signed into law a provision that allows for a grace period on labeling inventory for beverages that were previously not subject to the bottle bill, but will be covered beginning on January 1, 2023, allowing inventory that has already been purchased by retailers by December 31, 2022 to be sold even if it is not correctly labeled for deposit. Those unlabeled containers will be able to be redeemed beginning on January 1, 2023.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) would like to take this opportunity to remind consumers, retailers, distributors, and manufacturers what types of beverages and bottles are covered and not covered by the Bottle Bill. The graphics below provide a breakdown of covered beverages vs. not covered beverages.

DEEP notes that there has been confusion about whether spirit-based beverages (also known as ready-to-drink beverages or canned cocktails) are covered by the Bottle Bill. DEEP has historically interpreted the law that if such beverages are carbonated, they are subject to the Bottle Bill and should be labeled for deposit and be able to be redeemed. The passage of Public Act 21-58 does not change that interpretation. DEEP will note that Public Act 21-58 makes explicit that spirit-based beverages labeled or marketed as hard seltzers are covered, due to the inclusion of “hard seltzer” in the definition of “carbonated beverage.”

What beverages will be required to have a deposit refund as of January 1, 2023?

BEER	SODA	WATER	SPORTS DRINKS*	ENERGY DRINKS	JUICE
HARD SELTZER	HARD CIDER	TEA & COFFEE	KOMBUCHA	PLANT WATER (e.g. Coconut Water)	CARBONATED SPIRIT-BASED BEVERAGES

* “Sports drinks” are beverages that are in whole or in part used for hydration before, during, and after exercise.

Containers of the following sizes and material types in the beverage categories above will be included in the deposit program as of Jan. 1 2023: All glass, metal and plastic containers that contain 150ml to 3 liters of a carbonated beverage and 150ml to 2.5 liters of a non-carbonated beverage.

What beverages and/or container types will CONTINUE TO NOT BE COVERED by the deposit program as of January 1, 2023?

WINE	LIQUOR	MILK/DAIRY	PLANT-BASED MILKS	MIXERS**	MEAL REPLACEMENT DRINKS
	PAPER CARTONS	POUCHES	MINIATURES***	LARGE CONTAINERS (see "Size limits" below)	

** "Mixers" are products that are not marketed for or intended to be consumed on their own (i.e., soda and orange juice are NOT mixers because they are marketed for consumption on their own, even though they can also be used as a mixer).

*** "Miniatures" are beverage containers containing a spirit or liquor that are 50 milliliters or less. While these items are not part of the bottle bill and cannot be redeemed, they are subject to a 5-cent surcharge which is remitted to the municipality in which the container was sold.

Size limits:

- Containers that are larger than 2.5 liters containing a non-carbonated beverage such as juice and containers that are larger than 3 liters containing a carbonated beverage such as soda are not eligible for a refund.
- Containers that are less than 150 milliliters of any carbonated or non-carbonated beverage are not eligible for a refund.