

Updated List of Covered Beverages as of July 1, 2025

With the passage of Public Act 21-58, An Act Concerning Solid Waste Management, Connecticut has undergone 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.

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. This guidance was developed in consultation with the Bottle Bill Advisory Group, which includes participants from industry, the legislature, and the public. More information regarding the stakeholder process can be found at [Bottle Bill Stakeholder Process webpage](#). The graphics below provide a breakdown of covered beverages vs. not covered beverages. What beverages are required to have a deposit refund as of July 1, 2025?

- BEER
- OTHER MALT BEVERAGES
- SODA (and similar carbonated soft drinks)
- CARBONATED MINERAL WATER
- MALT-BASED HARD SELTZER
- WATER (including flavored water, plant water & nutritionally enhanced water)
- SPORTS DRINKS ¹
- ENERGY DRINKS
- JUICE
- JUICE DRINKS (non-carbonated flavored drinks containing > 0% juice)
- TEA & COFFEE
- KOMBUCHA
- PLANT-INFUSED DRINKS

¹“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 are included in the deposit program as of January 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 **ARE NOT COVERED** by the deposit program as of July 1, 2025?

- WINE & SPIRITS²
- WINE or SPIRIT-BASED COCKTAILS, SELTZERS
- HARD CIDERS
- MILK / DAIRY
- PLANT-BASED MILKS
- MIXERS³
- ELECTROLYTE DRINKS that are labeled as “medical food” (e.g., certain Pedialyte drinks)
- MEAL REPLACEMENT DRINKS
- PROTEIN DRINKS / SHAKES
- BEVERAGES IN PAPER CARTONS or POUCHES
- LARGE CONTAINERS (see “size limits” below)
- MINIATURES⁴
- THC-INFUSED BEVERAGES⁵

² Includes wines & spirits labelled as “non-alcoholic”

³“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).

⁴“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.

⁵“THC infused beverages” see Chapter 420i Sec. 21a-425 for definition.

Size limits:

- Containers that are larger than 2.5 liters (0.66 gallons) containing a non-carbonated beverage such as juice or water and containers that are larger than 3 liters (0.79 gallons) containing a carbonated beverage such as soda are not covered by the deposit program.
- Containers that are less than 150 milliliters of any carbonated or non-carbonated beverage are not covered by the deposit program.