

Options for Disposal of Waste Beer Where Destruction to Sewer Is Not Possible

The food and drink industry have made commitments to reduce food waste as far as possible and where this can be done, to divert waste to alternative purposes rather than disposal to the municipal waste network. For instance in the case of beer, rather than disposal to sewer, liquid waste recovered from the cellar can be processed to form animal feed or as a feed product for anaerobic digestion.

Beer can only be destroyed in a pub if it is connected to the foul sewer, however before this can be done permission must be sought from the owning brewer, in order that duty can be reclaimed, and from the local water wholesaler. Whilst in the majority of cases permission from both is likely to be granted, there will be circumstances where this cannot be given and it will not be possible to destroy beer on site. In these circumstances, and in order that beer waste can be diverted to alternative uses, it will be necessary to recover and/or consolidate the available volume; either as full or part-full containers or that of the liquid itself:

- **Recovery of containers** - this may allow for the return of full or part-full containers and their contents to the brewer and where waste beer can be processed. In order to minimise the risk from injury, in all cases recovery of full or part-full containers will require the assistance of a delivery operator (which may also be a brewer) to undertake a thorough risk assessment; whether these are stored at ground level or in a subterranean cellar. The risk assessment will also need to consider site access and transfer of containers from ground level to a recovery vehicle. It is likely that recovery will not be possible if containers are held in subterranean cellars however licensees should discuss all available options for recovery of full or part-full containers with their supplier in the first instance.
- **Recovery of liquid volume** - this will require a third party operator to extract and consolidate the liquid volume to repurpose for alternative uses. There is currently no formal infrastructure within the sector for recovery of liquid volume from cellars, however licensees may contact [Keg Watch](#) who currently have some limited capabilities to undertake this process. Alternatively, and to understand further requirements associated with the use of waste beer as animal feed or as feed material for anaerobic digestion, licensees should contact the following organisations:

[Anaerobic Digestion and Bioresources Association](#)
[Renewables Energy Association](#)
[Agricultural Industries Confederation](#)