

Frequently Asked Questions

IN-STORE BREWING

What has changed?

Since May 2015, retailers with their primary business being the sale of homebrewing/winemaking have been able to apply for an in-store brewing authorization.

What is in-store brewing?

In-store brewing retailers sell customers the ingredients and provide them with instructional advice, service and equipment, and space so they can make beer or wine for personal consumption at their home or an offsite private location. After mixing their beer or wine, the customer leaves it at the retailer for fermentation and returns after the specified time required (approximately four to six weeks) to bottle their beer or wine and remove it from the site.

Why is this new authorization being made available?

Homebrewing/winemaking has become increasingly popular among hobbyists, however many people have limited room in their home or don't have the ability to make their own beer or wine. In response, Manitoba homebrewing/winemaking supply retailers expressed interest in offering an in-store service to better assist customers who may not have the ability or space to participate in homebrewing/winemaking.

Who can apply?

Retailers whose primary business is selling homebrewing/winemaking supplies can apply to the LGA for an in-store brewing authorization.

Is there a cost?

The LGA does not charge an application fee or any other fee to maintain the authorization.

Are there any special requirements that in-store brewing retailers must meet?

Yes, in-store brewing retailers must:

- meet federal excise requirements under the Excise Act (for beer) and the Excise Act, 2001 (for wine and high-alcohol beer). These federal acts establish requirements for the production, storage and packaging of beverage alcohol at in-store brewing facilities;
- comply with the LGA's standards for in-store brewing facilities which are based on the federally-legislated requirements;
- comply with municipal zoning and food handling requirements;
- make sure the area where beer or wine is produced is not accessible to the general public;
- ensure the production area is age-controlled and that minors are monitored by an adult; and
- limit quality control taste testing to the person making the beer or wine and ensure the amount consumed does not exceed 120 ml of beer or 60 ml of wine.



How does an in-store brewing retailer comply with the federal excise acts?

Interested in-store brewing retailers must consult with the Canada Revenue Agency's Regional Excise Duty Office to obtain information on how to ensure compliance with federal excise legislation and conditions. Contact information for the regional Excise Duty Office can be found on the Canada Revenue Agency's [website](#).

Are there any special requirements that customers must meet?

Yes, customers making beer or wine at an in-store brewing retailer must:

- 1) purchase ingredients, mix their beer or wine, and leave it on the premises for fermentation; and
- 2) return to bottle their beer or wine and remove the product from the in-store brewing retailer after approximately four to six weeks of fermentation.

Can in-store brewing retailers mix or brew beer or wine on behalf of a customer?

No, federal regulations require the customer to “pitch the yeast” and bottle their own beer or wine. The retailer may provide guidance and advice on brewing kits and ingredients, supervise the fermentation process, and monitor quality control taste testing and bottling of the final product.

Can beer or wine made at an in-store retailer be used for commercial purposes?

No. All beer or wine made at an in-store brewing retailer must be for a customer's personal use and consumed in a private location offsite from the retailer. “Personal use” is defined as beer or wine that is produced and used by an individual, or shared with others. It does not include the sale or other commercial use of the beer or wine.

Can someone use the beer or wine they make at an in-store brewing retailer at a social or wedding?

No. Beer or wine made at an in-store retailer cannot be served or sold at a social occasion permit event, including no-charge events such as a wedding or shower.

Can minors participate in making beer or wine?

No. Minors may not make beer or wine and they cannot assist parents or guardians mix ingredients or bottle the finished product. Minors may be employed by an in-store brewing retailer, but must be supervised by an adult. Minors employed by an in-store brewing retailer are restricted from participating in any functions related to the making of beer or wine, and are limited to basic retail functions (e.g. customer service, cashier, stocking shelves, cleaning, etc.).

Will people be drinking at in-store brewing retailers as they would at premises licensed for liquor service?

Retailers may provide customers a small amount of the customer's own beer or wine for quality assurance purposes. Quality assurance activities must take place prior to bottling, and must not exceed 120 ml of beer or 60 ml of wine. No other consumption of liquor, either complementary or for sale, is allowed on the premises at any time.



Do these types of facilities exist elsewhere?

Yes, other jurisdictions in Canada have allowed similar business models to operate and have done so successfully. Some examples include British Columbia, and Manitoba's neighbouring provinces, Saskatchewan and Ontario.

By authorizing in-store brewing retailers, are people going to have a retail source for low-cost beer and wine?

Based on the experience in other jurisdictions, in-store brewing retailers have not become a source for large volumes of inexpensive beer and wine but have attracted hobbyists and those wanting to experience making their own beer or wine. The high initial financial outlay and the average four week preparation time does not create the atmosphere for quick access to beer or wine.

How do I apply?

For more information on how to apply for an authorization to open an in-store brewing facility, please [email](#) the LGA Liquor Licence Department or contact us at 204-474-5619 or toll-free at 1-888-898-6522, or visit us online at www.LGManitoba.ca.

