

CALIFORNIA'S Beverage Container Recycling Law



This brochure is to inform store owners who sell beverages of their responsibilities under the California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act.

Beverages included in the California Redemption Value (CRV) program

- Beer and other malt beverages
- Wine coolers or distilled spirit coolers (both 7% or less alcohol by volume)
- Carbonated water, including soda and carbonated mineral water
- Noncarbonated water, including noncarbonated mineral water
- Carbonated soft drinks
- Noncarbonated soft drinks and “sport” drinks
- Noncarbonated fruit drinks that contain any percentage of fruit juice
- Coffee and tea drinks
- Carbonated fruit drinks
- Vegetable juice in beverage containers of 16 ounces or less
- 100% fruit juice in containers less than 46 ounces

Redeemable containers are labeled:

- **CA REDEMPTION VALUE**
- **CALIFORNIA REDEMPTION VALUE**
- **CA CASH REFUND**
- **CALIFORNIA CASH REFUND, OR**
- **CA CRV**

When you charge CRV on eligible beverages, you are encouraged to show the CRV payment as a separate item on your cash register receipts. The CRV portion is subject to sales tax only if the sale of the beverage is subject to sales tax.

Sign requirements for stores that sell CRV containers

You must post a sign that tells customers where they can redeem CRV bottles and cans.

If you have questions or would like a complimentary sign, call **1-800-RECYCLE** or **(916) 322-0195** or send an e-mail to **dealersigns@CalRecycle.ca.gov**.

- The sign must be at least 10”x15” and must be placed in a clear and conspicuous location at all public entrances to your store.
- The sign must include the name and address of the closest state-certified recycling center that redeems all types of empty beverage containers.



Requirements for stores located in convenience zones without a certified recycling center

A convenience zone is the one-half mile radius around a supermarket with annual sales of \$2 million or more.

All stores in a convenience zone without a certified recycling center will receive a “First Notice” that they have 60 days to start redeeming CRV bottles and cans or pay a daily fee.

If a certified recycling center is not established in the convenience zone on or before the end of the 60-day period, California law requires stores to do either:

Option A: Pay CRV on all eligible empty beverage containers brought to your store during regular business hours. This would involve storing containers until they can be taken to a certified recycling center or processor.

Option B: Pay \$100 per day to CalRecycle. By paying this fee, you are relieved of your legal obligation to redeem empty beverage containers in-store. However, you are still required to post a sign indicating the name and address of the closest state-certified recycling center.

CRV is 5¢ for each beverage container less than 24 ounces, and 10¢ for each container 24 ounces or more.

If you choose Option A

In lieu of posting a sign showing the name and address of the nearest state-certified recycling center, you are required to post a sign of at least 10 by 15 inches at all public entrances to your place of business that specifies one of the following:

1. Beverage containers may be redeemed at all open cash registers within this store.

2. Beverage containers may be redeemed at (specify a designated location) within this store.

You may use your own sign or the sign provided by CalRecycle to post this information.

Option A or B is not required if a certified recycling center opens in your convenience zone. If a recycling center opens within your convenience zone, CalRecycle will notify you in writing, providing you with the name and address of the recycling center.

Note: This handout does not cover every aspect of the law.

If you have questions about dealer requirements, contact CalRecycle at **(916) 322-0195**, or call **1-800-RECYCLE** and your call will be directed to the appropriate staff.

You can also visit our website:

www.calrecycle.ca.gov/BevContainer/

