



Staff Handout

Introducing Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme

From 1 February 2024, when a consumer buys a drink in a plastic bottle, aluminium or steel can that features the *Re-turn logo, they pay a small refundable deposit in addition to the price of the drink. When they're finished, they can simply bring back their empty, undamaged drinks container to any participating shop or supermarket nationwide to get their full deposit refund.

What can be returned

Consumers can return empty and undamaged plastic bottles or cans featuring the *Re-turn logo to any participating shop or supermarket nationwide to get a full deposit refund.

*Starting 1 February, retailers have a 4-month transition period during which they can sell both new drinks containers with the Re-turn logo and older drinks containers that do not feature this logo. During this time, drinks containers can incur a deposit in two ways:

- By having the Re-turn logo with a registered barcode
- By having a barcode that is registered as part of the scheme without the Re-turn logo.

Should consumers be charged a deposit on drinks containers without the Re-turn logo, please assure the customer that they will get their deposit back when they return the empty, undamaged drinks container to RVM Deposit Return Points nationwide.

How to return

Containers can be returned to any participating retailer regardless of where they are purchased. If through a reverse vending machine, consumers will be issued a voucher that can be redeemed at your till against store purchases or as a cash refund.

If over the counter, you must check the drinks container features the Re-turn logo and is undamaged and then provide a refund. Should a consumer present a drinks container that does not feature the Re-turn logo but they say they have paid a deposit, please ask them to bring the empty undamaged drinks container to their nearest RVM deposit return point.

If a consumer is in any doubt about whether their drinks container is eligible for a deposit refund, they can visit <https://re-turn.ie/consumer/#barcodeChecker> to verify.

Where to Return

Please visit re-turn.ie/#wheretoreturn or scan the QR code to view our Deposit Return Point map which details participating shops and supermarkets nationwide.





FAQs

Why is there a Deposit Return Scheme being introduced into Ireland?

We currently recycle approximately 60% of drinks containers and Deposit Return is a proven method of increasing recycling rates, with great success in a number of other European countries. Under the EU Single Use Plastic (SUP) directive, Ireland must ensure the separate collection of 77% of plastic beverage bottles by 2025, rising to 90% by 2029.

Can I return drinks containers bought before 1 February?

No – consumers should not store drinks containers bought before 1 February as these plastic bottles and cans are not part of the Scheme. Remember if you don't pay a deposit, you are ineligible for any deposit refund as no deposit has been paid.

Do I have a choice on how my deposit is refunded? Yes, you have the option to get your deposit refunded in cash or against store purchase.

Why is glass not included? Currently there is no requirement for glass to be included in the Scheme as Ireland has a recycling rate of over 80% for glass and is surpassing recycling targets for this material.

Is this an extra cost?

No, as the deposit is fully refundable when the empty undamaged drinks containers are returned to participating shops and supermarkets nationwide. The only people that will lose out are the ones who do not return their drinks containers to participating shops and supermarkets nationwide.

Can I redeem the voucher I receive from a Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) in any store?

No. Empty and undamaged drinks containers may be returned to any participating store nationwide, but the voucher issued from a store's Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) must be redeemed in that specific store.

Are multipacks part of this scheme?

All new multi-packs with the Re-turn logo will now feature barcodes on each container and will be subject to a deposit which is fully refunded when each container is returned. Older multipacks without the logo or barcode will not have a deposit charge.

Why do the containers have to be undamaged?

When returning drinks containers through a Reverse Vending Machine (RVM), the containers have to be in good condition as the machines scans the shape of the container as well as the barcode to ensure validity.



FAQs

My drinks container did not have a Re-turn logo on it, why was I still charged a deposit?

Should consumers be charged a deposit on a drinks container, please be assured that you will get your deposit back when you return it empty and undamaged to Reverse Vending Machine Deposit Return Points nationwide.

Starting February 1, 2024, retailers have a 4-month transition period during which they can sell both new drinks containers with the Re-turn logo and older drinks containers that do not feature this logo. During this time, drinks containers can incur a deposit in two ways: By having the Re-turn logo with a registered barcode; by having a barcode that is registered as part of the scheme without the Re-turn logo.

During the transition period, there will be old drink containers without a logo and with a barcode not registered with the scheme; these drinks containers will not incur a deposit charge. From June 1, all drinks containers included in the scheme will feature the Re-turn logo and barcode. If a consumer is in any doubt about whether their container is eligible for a refund on a deposit, they can visit re-turn.ie/consumer/#barcodeChecker to verify.

Is this a government scheme?

No, Re-turn (DRSI CLG) is a not for profit company limited by guarantee and was formed by producers and retailers in order to fulfil their obligations under the Separate Collection (Deposit Return Scheme) Regulations 2021.

I bought my drinks online, do I pay a deposit, and how do I return them?

All drinks containers featuring the Re-turn logo will have a deposit that is fully refundable when returned empty and undamaged to participating shops and supermarkets nationwide. Your receipt from the online retailer will display a QR code and the Re-turn website URL so you can access a map of all Deposit Return points nationwide.

Do I need the bottle cap for the bottle to return it?

The bottle can be returned with or without the bottle cap. In the interest of recycling, it is preferred that the bottle be returned with the cap.

Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) Queries

Should retailers encounter any issues with their RVM, please contact the RVM supplier for advice and guidance.