



Quick Guide: Growlers

A growler is a reusable container that is capable of holding up to 64 fluid ounces of beer, wine, cider or mead that is designed to be filled and sealed on premises for consumption off-premises.

Under District of Columbia law, only liquor stores, full-service grocery stores, breweries, wineries and wine pub and brew pub permit holders may sell products to customers in growlers in the District of Columbia.

RELEVANT LAW

The following laws and regulations govern the sale and distribution of growlers in the District of Columbia:

- §§ 25-101(24B), 25-110, 25-112, 25-117 and 25-124 of the D.C. Official Code; and
- § 23-705 of the D.C. Municipal Regulations.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Beer in growlers may only be sold by the following types of alcoholic beverage licensees:

- Off-premises retailer's class A, which includes liquor stores;
- Off-premises retailer's class B that are licensed as full-service grocery stores;
- Manufacturer's class B, which includes breweries; and
- On-premises retailer's class C or D that have a brew pub permit, which allows the establishment to sell growlers from 7 a.m. to midnight.

Wine in growlers may only be sold by the following types of alcoholic beverage licensees:

- Off-premises retailer's class A, which includes liquor stores;
- Off-premises retailer's class B that are licensed as full-service grocery stores;
- Manufacturer's class A that are licensed as wineries; and
- On-premises retailer's class C or D that have a wine pub permit, which allows the establishment to sell growlers from 7 a.m. to midnight.

SALES RESTRICTIONS

Wine in growlers may only be sold if the alcohol content in the wine (including cider and mead) does not contain more than 15% alcohol by volume. Retailers that hold a valid license or permit to sell and distribute beer, wine, cider or mead in growlers may not permit patrons that purchase growlers containing alcohol to consume the beverage at the licensed establishment unless they are a brew pub, wine pub or a brewery or winery with an on-site sales and consumption permit.

PENALTIES

Violators of the District's rules regarding the sale and distribution of growlers may be subject to a minimum \$1,000 fine, as well as possible suspension or the revocation of the violator's liquor license pursuant under D.C. Official Code Title 25, section 823; and D.C. Municipal Regulations Title 23, section 800.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, visit ABRA.DC.Gov or contact ABRA at 202-442-4423 or ABRA@DC.Gov.