



State of Vermont
PERMIT AND LICENSE INFORMATION

**SMALL BUSINESS FACT SHEET
OPERATION OF A MICRO-BREWERY**

Micro-breweries have become a popular entrepreneurial project. This information sheet will provide general information about the permits needed.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Wastewater from the brewing process contains a high concentration of organic matter, which can overload some sewage treatment facilities. The amount and strength of the waste product may have to be determined by a certified laboratory in order to analyze its impact on the treatment system.

If the waste is being sent to a **municipal treatment facility**, the following permits may be necessary from the Department of Environmental Conservation:

- **Wastewater System & Potable Water Supply Permit** ([Sheet #1](#)). An application may be obtained and a permit processed through the Regional Environmental Office. A letter from the municipality approving the allocation of water and sewage treatment capacity will also be required.
- **Pretreatment Permit** ([Sheet #8*](#)). This permit regulates the discharge of high strength waste to municipal treatment facilities.
- **Water Supply Permit** ([Sheet #22*](#)). If you are proposing to extend a municipal water line more than 500 feet to your project OR are adding any hydrants or a sprinkler system, a permit may be required.

If the waste is to be treated by an **on-site septic system**, the following permits may be necessary from the Department of Environmental Conservation:

- **Wastewater System & Potable Water Supply Permit** ([Sheet #1](#)). An application may be obtained and a permit processed through the [Regional Environmental Office](#). You may have to hire a licensed designer to either certify the existing septic system is in compliance with applicable Environmental Protection Rules or to design a new system. An evaluation of the quantity and strength of the process waste may also be required. Your water supply will be evaluated for adequate isolation from contamination sources, and must be tested for certain organic chemicals and bacteriological content. If you propose a floor drain for the process water, disposal of the waste will be addressed as part of the Wastewater Disposal & Potable Water Supply Permit review. ([Sheet #1.2*](#))

OTHER DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION PERMITS

- If solids separated from the process waste are to be land applied, a certification from Residual Management may be needed from the Wastewater Management Division ([Sheet #10](#)).
- Bottle Certification from the Waste Management Division. Approves labels and certifies glass bottles refillable and approves all beverage container labels that are required to carry the "VT 5 cents" message. No fee. Takes about 30 days to process the application once it is submitted and complete. ([Sheet #42](#))

OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICES YOU SHOULD CONTACT:

- Act 250 ([Sheet #47](#)) Construction of improvements for a commercial purpose may trigger Act 250 jurisdiction. Call a District Coordinator at a Regional Office. See Map.
- Vermont Liquor Control Board ([Sheet #90](#))
- Local municipal offices for zoning and building permits
- Vermont Department of Public Safety, Fire Safety Division (Sheets [#49](#), [49.1](#), [50](#), [50.1](#), [50.2](#), [50.3](#)) Jurisdiction over all plumbing, wiring, fire prevention, construction and accessibility

DISTRICT FIRE SAFETY DIVISION OFFICES

Barre 802-479-4434	Rutland 802-786-5867
Springfield 802-885-8883	Williston 802-879-2300

- Vermont Department of Taxes (Sheet's [#91](#), [92](#) and [95](#))
- Secretary of State ([Sheet #90.1](#))
- Vermont Department of Health. Food service license (Sheet's [#53](#) & [53.1](#)) (If food is served to patrons)
- Federal Treasury Department, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (See your local phone book under U.S. Treasury Department)

This is not an all-inclusive list, but identifies the permit and licenses that will most likely be required prior to operating a micro-brewery.

The Department of Environmental Conservation provides a unique service to anyone with questions about state permits. Permit Specialists are available to assist you in Springfield, Essex Junction, Rutland and Barre Regional Environmental Offices, as well as part time in St. Johnsbury, St. Albans, Bennington, Middlebury and Morrisville. Call them at the numbers listed below for assistance. They will guide you through the process by completing a Project Review Sheet that identifies state programs that may require a permit or license for your project. It could save you time, money and headaches.

PERMIT SPECIALISTS <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/ead/pa/index.htm>

Rick Oberkirch	Rutland, Bennington, Middlebury	(802) 786-5907
John Miller	Barre, Morrisville	(802) 476-0195
	St. Johnsbury (Tuesdays)	(802) 751-0127
Jeff McMahan	Essex Junction, St. Albans	(802) 879-5676
Jackie Carr	Springfield	(802) 885-8850

*Sheet #'s refer to summary sheets in the Permit Handbook that offer a brief description of the permit program. The Handbook is available at most Town Offices and State Libraries, and on the Internet at:

http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/permit_hb/index.htm