

Good Housekeeping

Good housekeeping makes common sense, but the basics bear repeating. Empty waste containers daily and don't neglect rubber floor mats when sweeping and mopping. Check ice machines and bins for signs of slime build-up and follow manufacturers' rules for cleaning and sanitizing them. Make a schedule for cleaning soda guns, holsters, coolers, sinks and drain boards and stick to it! Doing this will help eliminate fruit flies and other unwelcome pests.

Chemicals kept on the premises should be limited to only what's needed. Store chemicals below and away from beverages and ice.

Check your dumpster and recycling container to ensure that lids are closed and the area is litter-free. Your neighbors and customers will appreciate well-maintained grounds.



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The Basics of Tavern Sanitation



Ice and drinks are food.

If they become contaminated through careless handling or unsanitary surroundings, customers can get sick, just as they can from mishandled food in restaurants. That's why your tavern is inspected by the City of Milwaukee Health Department. The guidelines in this pamphlet are designed to protect your customers and your business – and they are the law. Take a few minutes to review them!

Getting Started

Your facility must be inspected and deficiencies corrected *before* you open. The Health Department will determine if bar fixtures (ice bins, ice machines, sinks, etc.), equipment and room finishes are approved for commercial foodservice use. Plans for *new* facilities must be submitted and approved *before* the start of construction.

Other Requirements

Alcoholic beverage licenses are issued by the Office of the City Clerk License Division (www.milwaukee.gov/license), 414-286-2238.

An occupancy permit must be obtained from the City of Milwaukee Department of City Development (www.mkedcd.org), 414-286-8211.

Serving Food

You don't need a food license to put out free popcorn, cheese & crackers, chips, pretzels or cold, cured sausage.

If you plan to serve prepackaged whole, frozen pizzas, or microwavable prepackaged sandwiches, you must obtain a **prepackaged foods restaurant license**.

If you plan to serve any type of food that is not prepackaged (hot dogs and Polish sausage, cold cuts, buffets or appetizers) you must obtain a **full restaurant license**. Plans and additional equipment may be required.

Food prepared in a private home cannot be served or sold in a licensed tavern.

Employee Health

If a bartender is ill, he or she can pass the illness along to customers and other employees. Employees should not work if they have been diagnosed with a food-borne illness or have symptoms of a food-borne illness (diarrhea, fever, vomiting, jaundice, or sore throat with fever).

Employee Hygiene

Hand washing is as important in taverns as it is in restaurants. Ice, snacks, drinks and the surfaces of glasses aren't heated like many foods – and heat kills germs. So, if bartenders don't wash their hands after using the toilet, taking out the garbage, or sneezing, they can transmit diseases such as Hepatitis A, Shigellosis and others.

Make it convenient to wash hands. Keep soap and disposable towels behind the bar (at dump sinks). Make sure restrooms are *always* supplied with soap and single service towels. Post hand washing signs and keep all restroom fixtures clean. No one likes to use a dirty restroom!

Handle ice and glasses correctly. Hold only the outsides of glasses – don't carry by sticking your fingers in them! Don't use glasses to scoop ice. Minimize hand contact and the risk of glass breakage by using a durable ice scoop with a handle. Store scoops with handles out of the ice so you don't have to dig for them, possibly contaminating your product. For the same reason, *don't* store bottles in drink ice.

Glass Washing

Glasses must be washed, rinsed, and sanitized. After dumping residues and straws from them in a dump or pre-wash sink, wash with soap, warm water, and brushes in a wash compartment.

Rinse in the center sink using plain water, and then immerse in a **sanitizer** solution (of bleach or other approved product at the recommended strength) in the last tank.

Don't rinse again after sanitizing! Allow glasses to air dry on a clean drain board. Don't towel dry or store on towels.

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