



Re-turn

Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme

What you need to know



Introducing Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme

Since 1 February 2024, when you purchase a drink in a plastic bottle, aluminium, or steel can displaying the Re-turn logo, a small refundable deposit is added to the price of the drink.

Once you've finished your drink, simply return the empty and undamaged container to any participating shop or supermarket across Ireland. You'll receive your full deposit back at the RVM Deposit Return Point.

If you're ever charged a deposit on a drink container, please be assured you will get it back when you return it through one of our nationwide RVM Deposit Return Points.

How it works

1

Pay product price +
deposit for your
drink



2

Enjoy your
delicious drink



3

Bring your drinks
container back to
any participating
retailers or
Reverse Vending
Machines (RVM)



4

Get your deposit
back in cash or
redeem against your
shopping

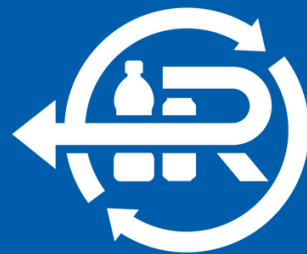




How to return

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 the till against store purchases or as a cash refund, some retailers may offer a donation feature on their RVM. If over the counter, retailers will check the drinks container features the Re-turn logo and is undamaged and then provide a refund. If a consumer is in any doubt about whether their container is eligible for a deposit refund, they can visit <https://re-turn.ie/consumer/#barcodeChecker> to verify.

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



Re-turn

What to return

If your plastic bottle or can features the Re-turn logo then it means a deposit is applied – to redeem it simply return your drinks container to any participating retailer.

You can only return drinks containers that are **EMPTY** and **UNDAMAGED**.



Glass



Dairy products

What not to return

Not all drinks containers are eligible for Deposit Return. Glass bottles and drinks with any dairy content are not included in the Scheme.

Deposit values



150ml - 500ml = 15c



Over 500ml - 3L = 25c

Frequent questions

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 to look out for the Re-turn logo and 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. In May 2025, Re-turn introduced an optional charity donation feature across some Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs). This feature gives RVM suppliers the ability to offer retailers the option to let customers donate their container deposits to charity when returning drinks containers.

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.

I already recycle through my Recycling bin, why is this being brought in?

While all consumers should use their recycling bins for mixed dry recyclables, we would ask that consumers return their plastic bottles and cans to participating shops and supermarkets to redeem their deposit. The separate collection of these plastic bottles and cans guarantees a high quality recyclate material is returned and recycled and there is no cross contamination. The introduction of Deposit Return is a proven method of increasing recycling rates, with great success in a number of other European countries.

Frequent questions cont'd

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?

Retailers that own multiple stores across multiple retail brands under a franchisee model have the option to apply this option across all of their participating outlets, regardless of the store branding, if they wish. Please contact your local retailer to find out more.

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.

Frequent questions cont'd

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.

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.

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.

For more information contact us at info@re-turn.ie

