Vermont Department of Liquor and Lottery
Guidance on Storm-Impacted Alcohol

In conjunction with the Department of Health (VDH) and the Agency of National Resources (ANR), the Department of Liquor and Lottery has developed the following guidance to Vermont businesses with liquor licenses for how to safely and legally disposed of storm-impacted alcohol.

**Federal Drug Administration Guidance**
Containers with screw caps, snap-lids, crimped-caps (soda bottles), twist-caps, flip-top, snap-open and similar type closures that have been submerged in floodwaters must be discarded. For containers that have not completely submerged in flood water, the bottles may be cleaned and disinfected if it can be positively demonstrated that none of the contaminated water had reached the closure of the bottle.

If it cannot be clearly demonstrated that the bottle closures have not been in contact with flood or contaminated water, Federal Drug Administration (FDA) would consider such products adulterated [definition: weakened or lessened in purity by the addition of a foreign or inferior substance or element]. Therefore, it must be discarded. Please consult FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) policy guidance for evaluating bottles in contact with flood waters.

**802Spirits Stores**
Any spirits inventory completely submerged must be destroyed. Please do not dump the liquid content. Spirits are considered hazardous because the high alcohol content makes it flammable; therefore, it must be destroyed properly and safely by an EPA-certified hazardous waste disposal company. The Department has arranged to have an EPA-certified and state-contracted company haul away and destroy distilled spirits at completely flooded 802Spirits stores beginning Monday, July 17, 2023.

Spirits bottles at 802Spirits stores that have not been submerged, can be cleaned and disinfected per FDA guidance. 802Spirits stores with flood impact should continue to contact their DLL retail liquor coordinator or Director of Retail Operations, Rich Morey, at rich.morey@vermont.gov for questions or additional guidance.

**2nd Class Licensees**
Bottles and cans of malt beverages, cider, ready-to-drink (RTD) spirit beverages, and wine typically sold in wine stores, grocery stores, convenience stores, gas stations and other 2nd class license locations can be: 1) sent back to the distributor, or 2) destroyed by the licensee, provided that the licensee ensures that those alcohol products cannot be accessed by minors or otherwise obtained illegally.

**1st and 3rd Class Licensees Bars, Restaurants, Hotels**
As with 2nd class licensees, low-ABV beverages like beer, wine, cider, and RTD spirits beverages can be sent back to the distributor or safely destroyed. Distilled spirits located in a bar, restaurant, or hotel are considered flammable and must be destroyed properly by an EPA-certified hazardous waste disposal company. ANR regulations allow businesses that generate very small amounts of hazardous waste to self-transport to designated waste facilities or collective events. Please contact...
the Department of Environmental Conservation's hazardous materials program to learn more about your waste disposal options.

All licensees should contact distributors about their policies for accepting damaged product. Licensees that choose to dump beverage alcohol in large quantities down the drain, should check with their local wastewater district for any specific guidance in that jurisdiction. If the alcohol is removed from its original container, the empty container can be disposed in the trash or recycled.

Additional Resources
Department of Health Guidance for Reopening Food and Lodging Establishments After Flooding
Agency of Natural Resources Flood Debris Clean Up Guidance
ACCD Severe Storm Recovery Resource Center