



Office of the Board of License Commissioners for Howard County

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

Wine Corkage Permit Requirements

- The Board of License Commissioners may authorize a restaurant, club or hotel that holds a beer and wine, or beer, wine and liquor Class „B“ or Class „C“ alcoholic beverage license, to allow a person to bring personal wine onto the licensed premise for consumption under certain conditions as explained below.
- The licensee must apply by completing the application to the Board of License Commissioners for Wine Corkage Permit. Once approved, a revised license will be issued.
- There is no additional charge to the business for this permit.

Wine Corkage Authority Procedures:

1. The licensee must authorize the individual to take the alcohol onto the licensed premise. We suggest the licensed facility post a conspicuous sign indicating the facility’s rules regarding individual wine corkage.
2. The individual consumer(s) must be at least 21 years of age or older. Keep in mind that consumption by any person under age or by persons who appear intoxicated will each be considered each a separate violation of the alcoholic beverage laws of the State of Maryland, as if the licensee had provided the wine.
3. The consumer must order a meal in order to consume the personal wine.
4. The wine brought on the licensed premise under the wine corkage permit must not be available through the licensee’s wine list.
5. The hours that wine corkage may occur are the same hours as specified by the license.
6. The licensee may charge a corkage fee, upon which the State Sales Tax will apply. Contact the State Comptroller’s Office should you have any questions regarding the State sales tax at 1-800-638-2937.
7. The licensee must either dispose of any wine that remains after the meal, or the unused wine may be removed by the individual from the licensed premise if the bottle is re-corked or capped. A bottle that has been opened and is removed from the facility is considered an “open container” for the purposes of a violation of the open container provisions of the Criminal Law Article.