

# DRAUGHT LINE CLEANING

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## WHY CLEAN YOUR LINES?

- Beer contains proteins, carbohydrates and hundreds of other organic compounds. Within days of installing a brand new draught system, deposits begin to build up.
- Line cleaning prevents the buildup of organic material and mineral deposits while eliminating flavor-changing microbes.
- Draft beer sales and revenue will continue to decrease with each day that passes without an effective line cleaning process.
- Clean lines make for quality draught beer that looks good, tastes great, and pours without waste.

## HOW MUCH WILL YOU SAVE?

- What this means in dollars and cents is much more difficult to calculate than the cost to clean a beer line. It is also a much larger number. Increasing the recommended time between cleanings will cause beer spoilers (bacteria, yeast and mold) to flourish in the beer lines and begin to impart an off-taste into all of the beers on tap. The off flavor will be noticeable in the light lagers and wheat beers with subtle flavor profiles, more robust ales and stouts will mask the off taste for now. However, within a short amount of time the flavor will be detected in all beers on tap.
- Bar patrons will taste the off flavors produced by the beer spoilers and take one of four costly options:
  1. Not order another draft (stop drinking)
  2. Complain to receive a refund or exchange for a different beer
  3. Switch to bottle or can beer
  4. Elect to drink elsewhere
- Assuming a pint of beer sells for \$4.50, losing the revenue from just two pint sales cost the operator more than proper line cleaning would have cost.
- The realized cost of lost sales and customer good will is much greater to the operator than the cost to clean the lines in accordance with the Brewers Association line cleaning standards.

## WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE?

### Every two weeks:

- Lines will be cleaned with a caustic solution at 2% or greater concentration for routine cleaning of well-maintained lines, or at 3% for older or more problematic lines. Solution temperature will be 80°- 110°F during the cleaning process.
- Using an electric pump, caustic solution will be circulated through the lines at a minimum of 15 minutes at a velocity of up to 2 gallons per minute.
- Disassemble, service, and hand-clean all FOB-stop devices. Disassemble, service, and hand-clean all couplers.
- After cleaning, flush lines with cold water until pH matches that of tap water and no visible debris is being carried from the lines.

### Every three months:

- Disassemble, service, and hand-clean all FOB-stop devices. Disassemble, service, and hand-clean all couplers.
- Perform acid cleaning of draught lines as follows:
  - Clean lines with an acid line cleaner maintaining a solution temperature of 80°- 110°F
  - Circulate the acid solution through the lines for 15 minutes at a velocity of up to 2 gallons per minute with electric pump cleaning.
  - After acid cleaning, flush lines with cold water until pH matches that of tap water and no visible debris is being carried from the lines

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

\$35 minimum charge per cleaning  
\$12 per draught line (1-3 lines)  
\$10 per draught line (4-7 lines)  
\$8 per draught line (8+ lines)