



TOWN OF BROOKLINE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Drinking Water Access Factsheet: Article 8.35: Drinking Water Access Bylaw, Section 8.35.1: Access to Tap Water

In May 2015, Town Meeting members voted to require all indoor **Common Victualler Licensees** in the Town of Brookline to **offer Town tap water to customers upon request**. The following information outlines how this change may affect you.

What is a Common Victualler Licensee?

Officially, an indoor Common Victualler Licensee is the person who has been granted a license to serve prepared food in a restaurant for consumption on premises. This type of restaurant might also offer take-out or delivery service, but a simple definition of "Common Victualler" would be "A Restaurant with Seating".

What is Town Tap Water?

Tap water is all water that comes to your restaurant in the pipes, and **comes out of the faucet, or "tap" of your sinks**.

What Does the Regulation Mean for You?

If you are an owner or worker in a restaurant with seating in Brookline, you are now required to do something that you are probably already doing: **Provide Tap Water to Your Customers**. This regulation does not say that you can't charge a reasonable amount for paper or plastic cups. ***NOTE** – Brookline bans the use of disposable Polystyrene plastic containers. This by-law does not release food service licensees from that ban. Polystyrene products are often labeled with the #6 plastic icon as shown below.



When Does the Regulation Take Effect?

January 1, 2016

What Happens if You Do Not Comply?

According to the town by-laws, the first violation will result in a **Warning**. After that, the next violation will be considered an Offense with a fine of **\$50.00**. Offenses after that will result in a **\$100.00** fine.

If you have any questions about this new by-law, please call Rob Auffrey with the Brookline Health Department at 617-730-2642 or by e-mail at rauffrey@brooklinema.gov