



Bottle Coolers

When you are buying for the perfect bottle cooler, there is much more to consider than just what kind of beverage you will be storing and chilling. Bottle coolers have several aspects to consider before you purchase – we hope Caterkwik's buying guide will help you to make your decision.

Size & Capacity

There are various types and sizes of bottle coolers available on the market and each of them can perfectly fulfil certain requirements for the most demanding of bars, cafés, hotels or self-service functions. Manufacturers provide useful information on coolers such as the external dimensions, the litre capacity and the size of bottles, typically the standard 330ml; however, the capacity will vary depending on the size of the product being stored.



Under-counter bottle coolers are often used behind the bar and therefore will need to contain bottles of all sizes, cans or cartons. Thankfully, most under-counter coolers will feature adjustable shelves allowing you to easily determine the product to be stored.

Obviously, depending on the number of doors you require, the size of the space to accommodate a bottle cooler will vary. Most bottle coolers vary from single to triple door options. As the name suggests, an under-counter bottle cooler can typically fit underneath most counters and are very useful behind bars. On the other hand, upright bottle coolers will require more vertical space. With provided external dimensions, it is essential to allow for enough air circulation around the bottle cooler vents. This will improve the operations and increase the longevity of the machine.

Format

You may have already accounted for the space needed and the size of the bottle cooler, however, you will need to consider the practical use of your bottle cooler before purchasing. The doors are the main access to most bottle coolers and deciding whether you want the door to swing or slide open will affect the practicality of using it. Under-counter bottle coolers with self-closing sliding doors are ideal for use





behind the counter in bars and pubs as hinged doors would obstruct space and restrict access. Hinged doors can be popular options for self-service options, allowing customers to select their own drinks and to easily have the whole product range on display without having their view reduced by the overlap of the sliding doors.

Temperature

There are no concrete temperatures that drinks should be stored at however, most bottle coolers will operate between +0 - 10°C. If storing fresh products, such as milk (for tea and coffee) or fresh fruit, it is recommended that your bottle cooler can operate at +4°C or colder.

Bottle coolers that have fan assisted features or an internal air circulation are useful to consider as they help achieve a better temperature distribution of chilled air than units without. Also, look out for units with digital temperature controls and internal thermometers which will aid the accuracy of your bottle cooler.



Display

Many bottle coolers feature internal lighting as a standard feature to help aid the display of your showcase of products. Some manufacturers provide lighting options such as different colours or LED lights for their bottle coolers, so look out for them in the product options and details. With your chosen lighting, ensure that it can stay on after the door has been closed and doesn't operate like a refrigerator (light turns off when the door is closed to save energy). The lighting of the Cater-Cool brand of bottle coolers is controlled by a separate switch.

Some bottle coolers will often have an integrated locking system feature which is helpful for safely securing your stock of products.

Apart from the size of the bottle coolers and the number of doors featured, the price will vary due to the build quality. The quality of the interior and exterior finishes and shelves affects the price of each cooler. Plastic is associated with lower cost bottle coolers as it is not as durable as stainless steel, which is designed to be hygienic and easy to clean. Plastic shelving would be recommended to be replaced by chrome wire or metal shelves and coloured plastic exteriors may be prone to discolouring.

Generally, the better quality of the build will increase the price of the bottle cooler however, it is also important to maximise the capacity of your bottle cooler in the space you have available.