

Acceptable IDs for Purchasing Alcoholic Beverages in Montana

The purpose of asking a customer for an ID when they are purchasing alcoholic beverages is to verify that the person is at least 21 years old.

Montana-Issued Mobile Driver's Licenses and IDs are acceptable:

- Mobile driver's licenses and state IDs
- Effective 9/1/2025 Montana's Mobile Driver's Licenses (Click [here](#) to visit MVD's website for more information)
- Basics
 - Download a free reader app for your phone
 - Purchase or rent an ISO 18013-5 compliant reader from an approved 3rd party vendor

Acceptable forms of ID are any government-issued ID that meets the following criteria:

- Contain a photograph
- Contain a date of birth
- Are not altered or manipulated

If the above criteria are met, here are some examples of conventional IDs:

Common

- Montana driver's licenses
- US Passports
- Military ID
- Montana Tribal ID

Less common but acceptable

- Driver's licenses, including those from other states and foreign countries
- Other forms of Government and foreign countries' IDs
- Passports issued by countries other than the United States of America

Unconventional IDs that are also acceptable (if they meet the criteria above):

- State (not private) college and university IDs
- Medical Marijuana ID Cards

Remember: the purpose of asking for an ID is to ensure the purchaser is of legal age. Underaged people will try all different tactics to obtain alcoholic beverages. If in doubt, ask for a second form of ID or deny the sale.

Please remember that sales to underage and any person who is actually, apparently, or obviously intoxicated is against the law.

All licensees must comply with all Federal and Montana alcoholic beverage laws and rules.

8.2025 Please note that the information in department communications may have been modified, superseded, or made obsolete by changes in federal or state law or the Administrative Rules of Montana. If you need to verify the current validity of this fact sheet or have any questions, please contact us at DORABCD-O&E@mt.gov.

