How should my **cask beer** travel from the **cellar** to the **customer's glass** at the right temperature?
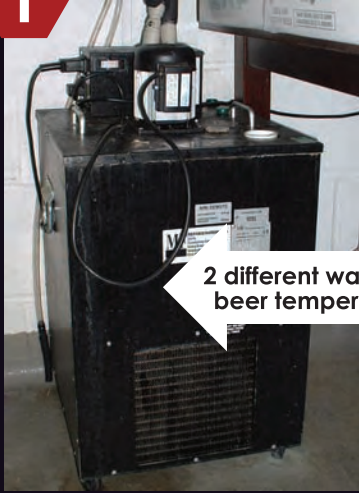
What equipment do I need?

1

Floor standing 'mini remote'

2 different ways of maintaining beer temperature in the lines

2

Wall mounted 'Ale Python Controller' (APC)

3

Cellar Cooler

Keeps the cellar at 11-13°C. Have a wall thermometer to check cellar temperature

Both the APC and Mini Remote provide cooled water which runs in-between the beer lines

Essential Checks

Before opening for business check beer is dispensing at **11-13°C**

11-13°C

Each week ensure APC or mini remote has sufficient water. Top up if necessary. Always disconnect the power first

Ensure vents and grills on the cellar cooler and APC/Mini remote are free from dust, and make sure no boxes obstruct the air flow around the coolers

Why use a cooling system to take your beer from cellar to glass?

⬡ Consistent temperature in the glass of every pint, including the first
⬡ Highly conditioned or 'lively' beers are less likely to fob
⬡ Reduces the need to pull off beer at the start of the trading session / quieter periods
⬡ Research shows that customers don't find beer refreshing above 14°C

What are mini remotes & ale pythons?

There are two main types of line cooling systems for cask ales. Within each type there will be a number of different models but the characteristics will be similar. View our website for further details on some of the different models.

⬡ **Cask Ale Python Controller (APC):** Normally a wall mounted device with its own water reservoir which circulates around the outside of the beer lines. Water from a keg remote cools the water in the APC to the desired temp.

⬡ **Mini Remote:** A smaller floor standing version of a normal keg remote. It controls the temperature of the water and circulates it around the outside of the beer lines.

How do mini remotes & ale pythons work?

The 'python' is insulation with beer lines running inside it. There is also a flow and return line within the python which contains cold water to maintain the beer at cellar temperature of 11-13°C. The exact temperature of the cold water is determined by the mini remote or ale python.

➡ **Always disconnect the power from the equipment before carrying out maintenance. Water and electricity don't mix!** ⬅

Prevention

The best way to look after your APC is to conduct regular checks on it. Technical service callouts are not cheap and it is best to identify any problems yourself before your customers have a chance to complain, or worse still to walk out without saying anything.

Check:
⬡ Cellar temperature is at 11-13°C
⬡ The APC or mini remote is topped up with water. If in doubt contact technical services
⬡ Cellar cooler air vents are clean and not obstructed by any boxes or debris and that there is no excessive leakage or build-up of ice
⬡ The temperature of your cask ale at point of dispense using a thermometer is between 11-13°C

Very Common Problem: Warm Beer	
Possible cause	Solution / Check
APC or remote not topped up with water	See online guide for how to top up various models of APC. Or speak to technical services
Beer engine cylinders either not jacketed, not connected to the water flow, or water not circulating properly	Feel the water line where it connects to the jacket. This should be cold and usually wet with condensation. If a thermometer is placed against it, it should read about 10-12°C
Beer lines are not fully insulated from cellar to bar	Check there are no gaps in the beer line insulation
Top mounted pump on APC/Mini remote not running	If the motor is running you should be able to feel the APC or mini remote unit vibrating
Motor running but pump not circulating water properly (python not cooled)	Check the water level is OK. If not then top up, if it is then contact technical services

Common Problems: APC/Mini Remote switched on but beer too cold	
Possible cause	Solution / Check
Mini remote switched to 'ice bank'	If ice bank stat fitted, ensure it is set to water bath
Python routed through the lager python	Call technical services

Common Problems: APC/Mini Remote working but beer temperature incorrect or inconsistent	
Possible cause	Solution / Check
As many as 10 pumps could be fed by the same system meaning the first engine in line is cold and the last is warm	A standard APC may only be suitable for cooling up to 5 beers. Call technical services for advice