



TRADING HOURS – KNOW THE LAW

The details of trading hours under the Intoxicating Liquor Acts are set out below. VFI recommends that if ordered to close when the Acts legally allow for trading, to produce this leaflet which explains the most up to date law!

The provisions of the Acts that members should carefully note are as follows:

Members are **NOT** entitled to trade:

- (a) At any time on Christmas Day;
- (b) On any other day, as specified hereunder, outside the times so specified in respect of it -

In effect, members can open for trade as follows:

- (i) Saint Patrick's Day: **between 12.30pm and 12.30am on the following day;**
- (ii) If 23rd or 24th December falls on a Sunday, **between 10.30am and 11.30pm;**
- (iii) Christmas Eve even if it falls on a Sunday: **between 10.30am and 11.30pm;**
- (iv) Holy Thursday **between 10.30am and 11.30pm;**
- (v) The eve of any public holiday (**other than Christmas Eve**);
 - (a) If the eve falls on a weekday, between 10.30am and 12.30am on the following day, or
 - (b) If it falls on a Sunday, between 12.30pm and 12.30am on the following day;
- (vi) **Any other Sunday (except a Saint Patrick's Day which falls on a Sunday): between 12.30pm and 11.00pm.**
- (vii) **Any other Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday: between 10.30am and 11.30pm; and**
- (viii) **Any other Friday or Saturday: between 10.30am and 12.30am on the following day.**

Half an hour drinking-up time after all Closing Times above.

Alcohol may be served to lodgers (but not lodger's guests) at any time

There is some confusion in relation to opening hours on the eve of a public holiday. This has resulted in reports of publicans being ordered to close their premises earlier than the actual legal requirement.

There are nine public holidays in the year as follows: **The first day of January, St. Patrick's Day, Easter Monday, the first Monday in May, first Monday in June, first Monday in August, the last Monday in October, Christmas Day and Stephen's Day.**

Public Holidays **should not be confused with** Bank Holidays.

As a general rule of thumb on the night before a public holiday publicans are legally entitled to trade until 12.30am with a half an hour drinking-up time. This includes a Sunday night preceding a public holiday on a Monday. **The only exception to this is Christmas Eve when all premises must finish serving at 11.30pm.**