

## chapter 3



# equipment and configurations for direct draw draught systems

**R**etailers use direct-draw systems in situations where the kegs can be kept refrigerated in very close proximity to the dispense point or faucet. In some cases, the beer sits in a cooler below the counter at the bar. In other cases, the keg cooler shares a wall with the bar, keeping the beer close to the point of dispense. Let's look at these two types of direct-draw systems:

- A self-contained refrigerator (keg box or "kegerator") where the number of kegs accommodated will vary based on box and keg sizes.

- A walk-in cooler with beer dispense directly through the wall from the keg to the faucet.

The nine components discussed in Chapter 1 appear in both direct-draw systems; only a little additional equipment comes into play. As with temporary systems, most direct-draw systems employ vinyl beer line and pure CO<sub>2</sub> gas.

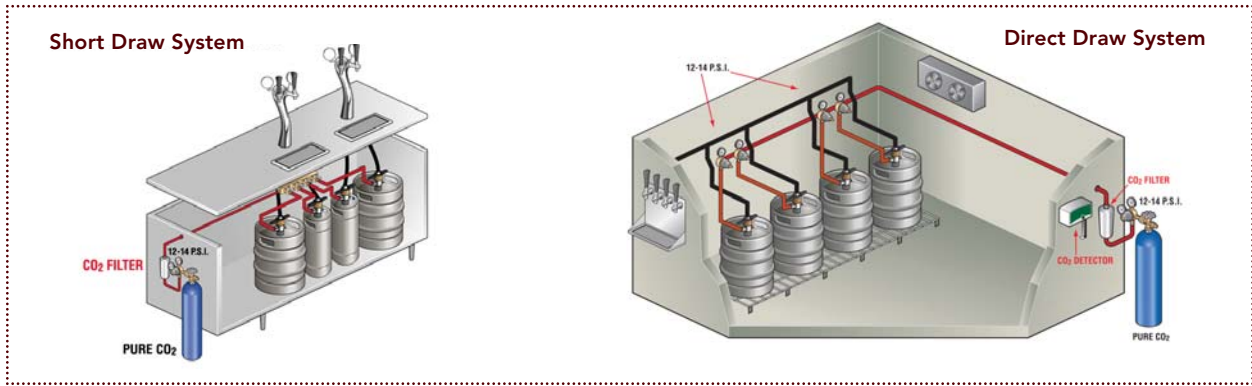
As permanent installations, direct-draw systems typically include a drip tray and some systems also incorporate



Direct Draw Kegerator



Walk-in Cooler



a tap tower. In addition, shanks support the faucets in either tower or wall-mount applications. The following sections discuss these elements of the system.

### Drip Tray

Many draught systems include a drip tray placed below the faucets and most health departments require them.



Many walk-in based direct-draw systems use a wall mounted drip tray that includes a back splash. This design may be used on some air-cooled long-draw systems as well. Bars typically place surface or recessed drip trays under draught towers. The drip trays should be plumbed to drain into a drain or floor sink.

### Towers

Direct-draw keg boxes and most long-draw systems mount the dispensing faucet on a tower. This tower attaches to the top of the bar or keg box. Towers come in various shapes and sizes and may have anywhere from one to dozens of faucets.

To achieve proper beer service, the beer line running through the tower to the faucet must be kept at the same temperature as the beer cooler. Direct-draw systems use

air cooling while long-draw systems usually use glycol cooling. The air-cooled towers are insulated on the inside and cold air from the cooler circulates around the beer lines and shanks. This works with direct-draw systems thanks to the close proximity of the tower to the cold box.

Glycol towers attach coolant lines in parallel to the beer lines (typically stainless) and surround them tightly with insulation. This cooling method allows towers to be located remotely from the cold box, up to several hundred feet away.



### Shanks

Most draught systems firmly mount the faucet to either a tower or a wall, making it a stable point for beer dispense. A threaded shank with securing nuts creates the solid connection to the supporting tower or wall. The faucet then connects to one side of the shank and beer line connects to the other side by either an attached nipple or a tail piece connected with the usual washer and nut. ■

