

No TTB or TABC permit is required to store or sell grapes or unfermented juice. Once the juice has been fermented, it's wine. Fermentation and storage of wine can only occur on a premises that is covered by the proper TTB and TABC permits.

In order to ferment juice, the facility where fermentation takes place must be covered by a TTB bonded winery permit authorizing production and a TABC winery permit. Untaxpaid wine, either in bulk or in bottles, does not have to be stored at a winery. It can be stored at a premises covered by a TTB bonded wine cellar permit and a TABC bonded warehouse permit, so long as the wine has been consigned to the storage facility by a properly licensed winery that also holds a TABC public storage permit.

An excellent example of bonded wine storage is Wilkerson Cold Storage Co. at 515 E. 66th Street in Lubbock. The Wilkerson facility is covered by a TTB bonded wine cellar permit and a TABC bonded warehouse permit and at least 7 Texas wineries hold private storage permits to store their wine there.

To qualify for a TABC bonded warehouse permit, the warehouse must derive "at least 50 percent of its gross revenue in a bona fide manner during each three-month period from the storage of goods or merchandise other than liquor." Tex. Alco. Bev. Code 46.03(a)(1). This requirement will make it a challenge for a vineyard to qualify for a bonded warehouse permit.



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