WEDDING
PLANNING
GUIDE

Planning a wedding and reception entails a lot of preparation – from venue, to guest list, to entertainment and transportation, there are countless details that require attention. To help with the planning of your special day, BC Liquor Stores offers the following guidelines for beverage alcohol purchasing:

before you buy

Before purchasing any beverage alcohol, consider details that may help you determine quantities:

- **Where is the function being held?**
  Rehearsal dinners and wedding receptions are usually held at a hotel or private club. If a cash bar is set up by the facility, your primary liquor expenditure will be for wine served during dinner, and for a toast to the bride and groom.

- **Is the gathering formal or relaxed?**
  A formal affair has a reduced pace, which translates to a slower consumption rate. A relaxed atmosphere has more life and tends to encourage consumption.

- **How long will it last?**
  The longer the event, the more you'll have to buy.

- **How many guests do you expect?**
  A larger group will consume more than a smaller group.

- **What's the average age of your guests?**
  Younger guests tend to consume more than older guests.

how much to buy?

Here's a general guide to the number of servings you'll get for wine, beer and spirits:

Wine
One bottle (750 ml) is approximately six four-ounce servings. That will serve two to three people, depending on how many servings you average per guest.

Beer
Generally, one case of 12 beers (341 ml size) will serve approximately four to six people, averaging two or three beers per guest.

Spirits
One bottle (750 ml) makes about 20 to 24 drinks.

Follow three steps when estimating your buying needs:

- Calculate how many people will be drinking at the event;
- Multiply this number by four—this tells you the maximum number of standard drinks you'll need;
- Translate this number of standard drinks into bottles of spirits and wine, and cases of beer.

responsible hosting

Mocktails—Beyond the Shirley Temple!
Mocktails are simply cocktails without the alcohol, and are intended to add to the enjoyment of guests who are not drinking alcohol.

De-alcoholized products
A de-alcoholized product is one in which alcohol has been removed, resulting in a beverage alcohol content that is less than or equal to 0.5 per cent alcohol by volume.
Please refer to BC Liquor Stores' website at www.bcliquorstores.com for a list of de-alcoholized products that are available.

A safe ride home
Part of responsible hosting is ensuring that your guests plan ahead for a safe ride home. There are a number of ways you can help your guests get home safely from your event:

- Encourage some guests to volunteer as designated drivers;

- Provide plenty of non-alcoholic beverages and some food throughout the event;

- Arrange for "just-in-case" accommodations at a nearby hotel;

- Book ahead with taxi companies so that they are available when your wedding ends.

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how much do you need?

Here are some buying guidelines you may find useful. These are purchasing guidelines only. You can adapt the amounts (percentages) per category to suit your guests' and your product preferences.

This table is based on four drinks per person during a three hour event. Beer is calculated based on cases of 12 bottles/cans. Wine is calculated based on 750 ml bottles or 6 × 125 ml glasses. Spirits are calculated based on 750 ml bottles or 24 drinks.

guests	beer (50%)	wine (30%)	spirits (20%)
12	2	2	1
25	4	3	1
50	9	10	2
100	16	20	3
150	25	30	5
200	33	40	7
250	42	50	8
300	50	60	10

need a special event permit?

If you are hosting an event where liquor will be sold at a location that is not licensed OR where liquor will be served or sold in a public space, you will need a licence. Events held at private residences or licensed establishments do not require Special Event Permits.

You can apply for a Special Event Permit online at **https://specialevents.bcldb.com**. It's convenient and simple!

Pick up a brochure at your local BC Liquor Store or go online to **https://specialevents.bcldb.com** for more information.

SPECIAL EVENT **PERMITS**
A Special Event Permit allows the host of an event to serve or sell liquor.

Apply for a permit online at:
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