

# 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 (750ml) 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 (750ml) 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. Visit the Entertaining and More section of [www.bcliquorstores.com](http://www.bcliquorstores.com) for some delicious mocktail recipes.

### 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](http://www.bcliquorstores.com) for a list of de-alcoholized products that are available.

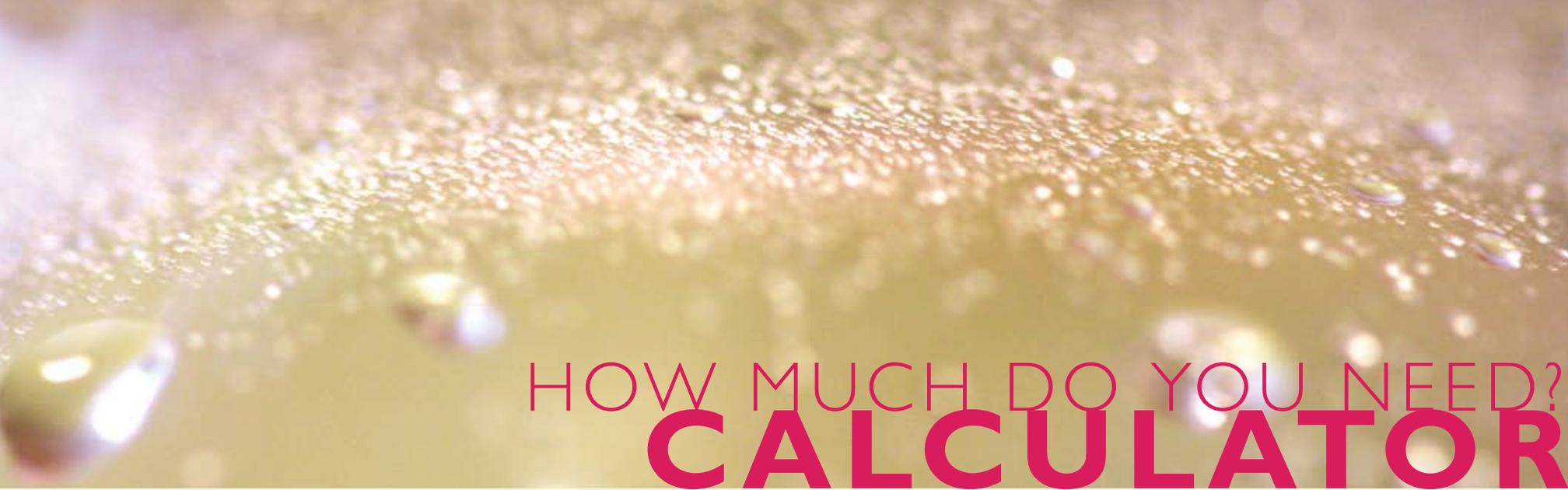
### Do you need a Special Occasion Licence?

If you're hosting an event where alcohol will be served or consumed, you'll probably need to purchase a Special Occasion Licence. You may also need a Serving it Right-trained person to serve drinks to your guests. Please refer to the Stores & Services/Special Occasion Licences section on BC Liquor Stores' website for more information.

### 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.



# HOW MUCH DO YOU NEED? CALCULATOR

number of 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

Here are some buying guidelines you may find useful. These are purchasing guidelines only. You can adapt the amounts 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 750ml bottles or 6 x 4oz glasses. Spirits are calculated based on 750ml bottles or 24 drinks.

## need a special occasion licence?

If you are planning to serve or sell liquor at either a private or public special event, you will need a Special Occasion Licence.

Pick up a brochure and an application at your local BC Liquor Store or visit [www.bcliquorstores.com](http://www.bcliquorstores.com) for more information.



**BC LIQUORSTORES**  
[www.bcliquorstores.com](http://www.bcliquorstores.com)