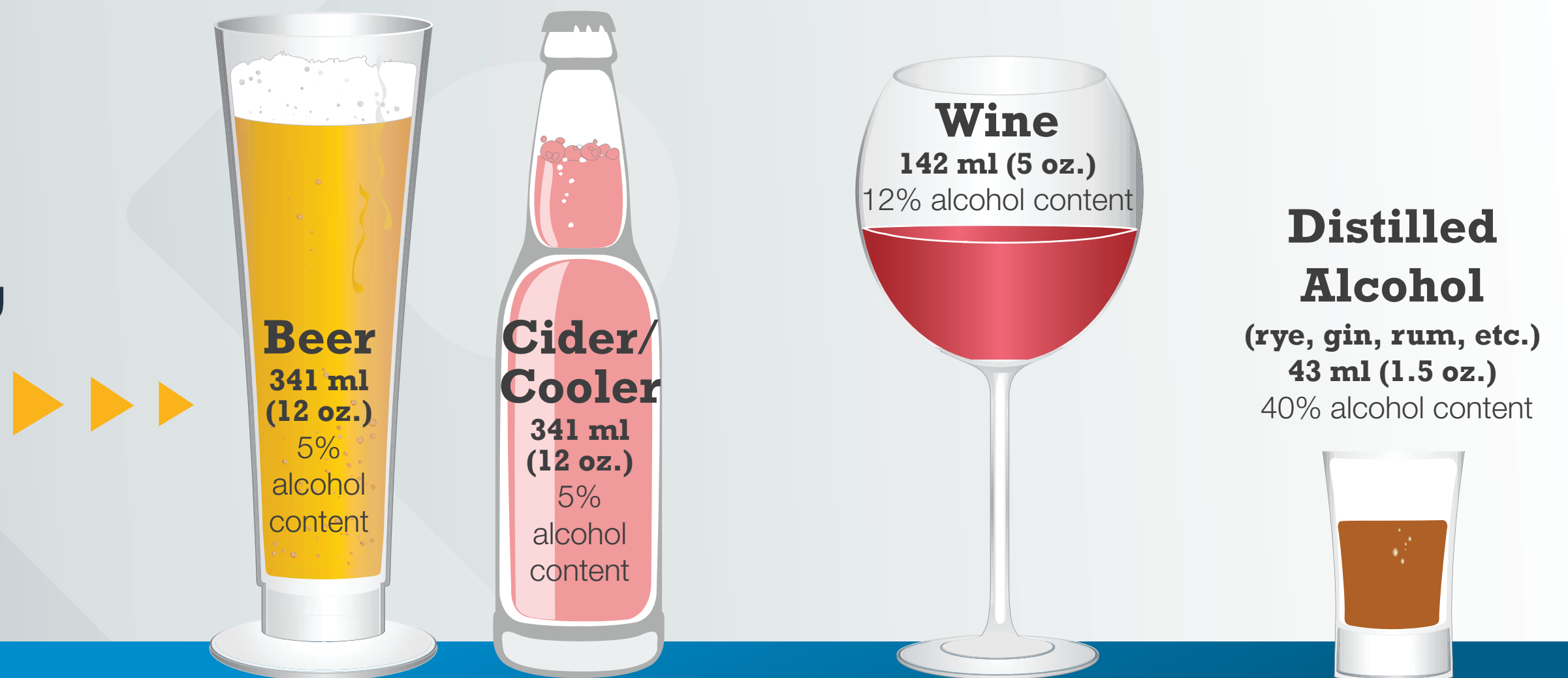


# Canada's Low-Risk Alcohol Drinking Guidelines

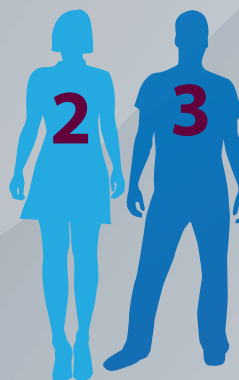
Drinking is a personal choice. If you choose to drink, these guidelines can help you decide when, where, why and how.

For these guidelines, "a drink" means:



## Your limits

Reduce your long-term health risks by drinking no more than:



- 10 drinks a week for women, with no more than 2 drinks a day most days
- 15 drinks a week for men, with no more than 3 drinks a day most days

Plan non-drinking days every week to avoid developing a habit.

## Special occasions

Reduce your risk of injury and harm by drinking no more than 3 drinks (for women) or 4 drinks (for men) on any single occasion.

Plan to drink in a safe environment. Stay within the weekly limits outlined above in **Your limits**.

## Safer drinking tips

- Set limits for yourself and stick to them.
- Drink slowly. Have no more than 2 drinks in any 3 hours.
- For every drink of alcohol, have one non-alcoholic drink.
- Eat before and while you are drinking.
- Always consider your age, body weight and health problems that might suggest lower limits.
- While drinking may provide health benefits for certain groups of people, do not start to drink or increase your drinking for health benefits.

**Low-risk drinking helps to promote a culture of moderation.  
Low-risk drinking supports healthy lifestyles.**

## When zero's the limit

Do not drink when you are:

- driving a vehicle or using machinery and tools
- taking medicine or other drugs that interact with alcohol
- doing any kind of dangerous physical activity
- living with mental or physical health problems
- living with alcohol dependence
- pregnant or planning to be pregnant
- responsible for the safety of others
- making important decisions

## Pregnant? Zero is safest

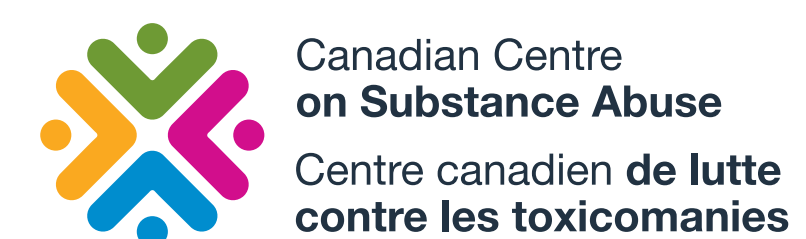
If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, or about to breastfeed, the safest choice is to drink no alcohol at all.



## Delay your drinking

Alcohol can harm the way the body and brain develop. Teens should speak with their parents about drinking. If they choose to drink, they should do so under parental guidance; never more than 1–2 drinks at a time, and never more than 1–2 times per week. They should plan ahead, follow local alcohol laws and consider the **Safer drinking tips** listed in this brochure.

Youth in their late teens to age 24 years should never exceed the daily and weekly limits outlined in **Your limits**.



Partnership. Knowledge. Change.  
Collaboration. Connaissance. Changement.

Distributed by:



CCSA wishes to thank the partners who supported development of Canada's Low-Risk Alcohol Drinking Guidelines. For a complete list of the organizations supporting the guidelines, please visit [www.ccsa.ca/Eng/topics/alcohol/drinking-guidelines/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.ccsa.ca/Eng/topics/alcohol/drinking-guidelines/Pages/default.aspx)

Printed with permission from CCSA.

### Reference:

Butt, P., Beirness, D., Gliksman, L., Paradis, C., & Stockwell, T. (2011). *Alcohol and health in Canada: A summary of evidence and guidelines for low-risk drinking*. Ottawa, ON: Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse.

500–75 Albert Street, Ottawa, ON K1P 5E7  
Tel: 613-235-4048 | Fax: 613-235-8101

Charitable #: 122328750RR0001 ISBN 978-1-77178-010-0  
Developed on behalf of the National Alcohol Strategy Advisory Committee

© Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse 2013

Visit our website to find out more!

[www.ccsa.ca](http://www.ccsa.ca)