

What is a standard drink?



The Australian Guidelines to Reduce Health Risks from Drinking Alcohol recommend the following to reduce the risk of alcohol-related harm and ill-health:

- Guideline 1** For healthy men and women, drinking no more than two standard drinks on any day reduces the lifetime risk of harm from alcohol-related disease or injury.
- Guideline 2** For healthy men and women, drinking no more than four standard drinks on a single occasion reduces the risk of alcohol-related injury arising from that occasion.

In Australia, a **standard drink** is any drink containing **10 grams of alcohol**, regardless of container size or alcohol type (e.g beer, wine, spirit). Alcoholic beverages are sold and served in many different sized containers. Different types of beverages contain different amounts of alcohol, and glass sizes are often not the same. A glass or container can hold more than one standard drink of alcohol. This can make it difficult to know how many standard drinks you consume. Using standard drinks to measure your alcohol

consumption is more accurate than counting the number of glasses or other containers you have consumed. If you are drinking packaged liquor, the number of standard drinks should be written on the side of the beverage container.

TRY IT ONLINE! Go to alcoholthinkagain.com.au and use the standard drink tool to see if you can correctly pour a standard drink.

These are only an approximate number of standard drinks. Always read the container label for the exact number of standard drinks. Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this resource at the time of publication. Source: National Health and Medical Research Council. © Drug and Alcohol Office 2014 DA000100

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