

Alcohol – Facts & research

Alcohol products and labelling

What are other names for alcohol?

Drink, grog, piss, booze, liquor, sauce, juice, brewskis cans, tinnies and stubbies.

Alcohol comes in many different types of containers (bottles, cans, glassware, casks, kegs, barrels). The colour of alcoholic drinks can vary greatly which can sometimes lead to confusion with non alcoholic drinks.

Labelling

Alcohol products often have different labels (size of label and colours). The labels are required to be:

- in English
- distinctly legible and visible.

In addition, all labels must contain the following information:

- percentage of alcohol
- volume of alcohol/liquid in the container
- number of standard drinks within the container
- contents/ingredients
- expiry date (on beer)
- where it was made.

Types of alcoholic drinks

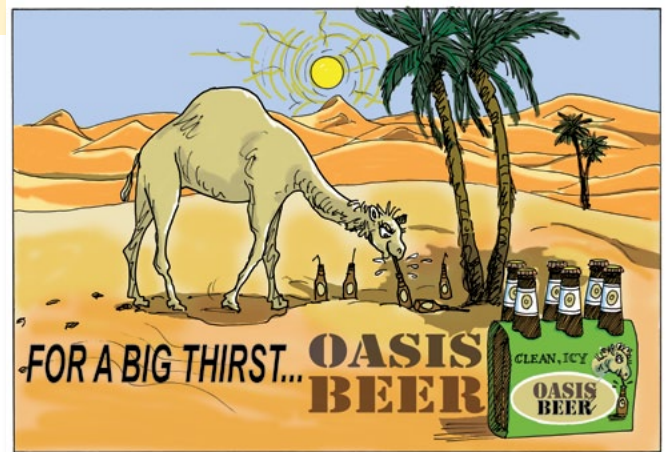
- Beer
 - regular beer (full strength beer)
 - light beer
- Wine
- Cider
- Coolers
- Sparkling wine
- Mixed drinks also known as RTDs (ready to drink) are drinks that combine a fruit juice or soft drink to a spirit such as vodka, rum or bourbon.
- Spirits e.g. brandy, rum, whisky, vodka, tequila, gin, bourbon
- Liqueurs
- Sherry
- Port

Beer

Beer is fermented barley with hops and water added. There are a number of varieties such as lager, draught and bitter. Regular beer is also known as standard or full strength beer and has about 5% to 7% alcohol/volume. Light beer is beer that is produced with a lower than regular alcohol level. Light beer has between 2.5% to 3.5% alcohol/volume. Beer is sold in cans, bottles (plastic or glass) and kegs.

Wine

Wine is made from fermented grapes. The colour of the grape usually dictates the colour of the wine. Wine can also be made from fruits. The standard wine bottle contains 750 ml with 12% to 14% alcohol/volume. Casks usually contain 4 or 5 litres.



Cider

Cider is made from fermented apple juice. Cider is sold in bottles and cans and usually has 4% to 5% alcohol/volume.

Coolers

Coolers are made from blending wine and fruit juices. The alcohol content is lower than wine ranging between 4.2% to 5.5% alcohol/volume. They are usually sold in small bottles (250ml-340ml) and casks.

Sparkling wine

Sparkling wine is produced from fermented grapes and is aerated through a variety of processes. A standard sparkling wine bottle holds 750ml but larger and smaller bottles are also available (150ml to 1litre). The alcohol content of most sparkling wine is 11.5% alcohol/volume.

Sherry and port

Sherry and port are fortified wines that are produced by adding extra amounts of alcohol. Alcohol strengths range from 18% to 20% alcohol/volume. They are usually sold in 750ml bottles, 2 litre bottles (flagons) and casks.

Mixed drinks

Mixed drinks are made by combining a spirit for example, rum or vodka and a soft drink, fruit juice or energy drink. They are sold in 250ml to 375ml cans or bottles as a premixed drink. Alcohol strength ranges from 4.8% to 5.5% alcohol/volume.

Spirits

Spirits are distilled from fermented sources such as grains, sugar cane and potatoes. Spirits and liqueurs have the strongest alcohol strengths. The alcohol content is usually about 40% alcohol/volume.

Liqueur

Liqueurs are concentrated spirits that have been flavoured. Liqueurs are usually sold in glass containers ranging in size from 350ml to