Holiday Party Drinks and Ice Chart

How much to buy for a 4-hour party with a full bar, when every guest drinks alcohol at about one drink per hour. For a different mix, guests who do not drink, or kids, use the free calculator at guestcalculator.com/party-drink-calculator/.

Guests	Drinks	Liquor 750 ml bottles	Mixer 12 oz cans	Wine 750 ml bottles	Beer 12 oz	Ice, lb (indoors)	Ice, lb (outdoors/hot)
10	40	2	7	2	10	10	20
15	60	3	10	3	15	15	30
20	80	3	14	4	20	20	40
25	100	4	17	5	25	25	50
30	120	5	20	6	30	30	60
40	160	6	27	8	40	40	80
50	200	8	34	10	50	50	100
75	300	11	50	15	75	75	150
100	400	15	67	20	100	100	200

How it is worked out. Drinks = guests x 4 hours x 1 drink per hour. Full-bar split 50% liquor, 25% beer, 25% wine; a 750 ml bottle pours 14 liquor drinks or 5 glasses of wine (The Knot, "You Need This Wedding Alcohol Calculator to Stock Your Reception Bar", updated 30 Sep 2025). Beer is one 12 oz can or bottle per beer drink; 12 oz of 5% beer is one US standard drink (NIAAA, "What Is A Standard Drink?"). Bottles and cans are rounded up.

Ice: 1 to 2 lb per person (Reddy Ice, "How Much Ice You Need for a Party, Wedding & Events", updated 9 Nov 2023). The indoors column uses 1 lb, the outdoors/hot column 2 lb.

The calculator's own choice (no published source): 4 oz of mixer per liquor drink, counted in 12 oz cans. Guests who do not drink alcohol need soft drinks on top of this chart.

Serve responsibly. Never serve alcohol to anyone under 21. Put out water and non-alcoholic drinks, serve food while the bar is open, stop serving before the party ends, and make sure every guest has a safe ride home.

Free to print and share. guestcalculator.com