

When drinking, each person will be affected differently. Many factors may influence how quickly alcohol affects a patron.

<b>Rate of consumption</b>	Increasing the number of drinks consumed in a given time period will greatly influence the rate of intoxication.
<b>Amount consumed</b>	“Doubles” and drinks made with more than one type of liquor typically contain more alcohol than standard drinks.
<b>Age</b>	Young and healthy people break down alcohol faster than the elderly and people in poor health. Younger patrons have more blood in their system, and their livers process alcohol more efficiently.
<b>Gender</b>	Women generally have more body fat than men and less body water with which to dilute alcohol. Women also have lower levels of the metabolizing enzyme required to break down alcohol.
<b>Body weight and type</b>	An overweight person generally becomes intoxicated faster than a muscular person who weighs the same and drinks the same amount of alcohol. Fatty tissue contains less water than muscle, so overweight bodies are less capable of diluting alcohol.
<b>Food consumption</b>	Food slows the absorption of alcohol into the bloodstream. On an empty stomach, alcohol reaches the brain in a few minutes and begins to affect behaviour and coordination. After a full meal, alcohol can take up to six hours to reach the brain. Food does not absorb the alcohol. It merely slows the speed at which alcohol is absorbed. Fatty foods are especially effective in slowing down the alcohol-absorption process. As fatty foods are more difficult to digest, they remain in the stomach longer than other types of food. The effect of the alcohol still occurs, but at a slower rate.
<b>Medication and other drugs</b>	Many common drugs (prescription medications, over-the-counter medications and illegal drugs) impair the user and increase the effects of alcohol. Using alcohol with other drugs can be very dangerous to a person's health and safety.
<b>Environment and mood</b>	The surroundings, including interaction with other guests, may trigger emotional responses. Alcohol usually exaggerates moods. A person who is depressed or upset will likely become more depressed and upset when drinking.
<b>Fatigue and stress</b>	Physical, mental or emotional fatigue and stress make a person more susceptible to the effects of alcohol.
<b>Tolerance to alcohol</b>	Experienced drinkers develop tolerance to alcohol. After prolonged regular drinking, the liver develops an ability to break down alcohol more rapidly, and brain cells may become less sensitive to alcohol. A person with a high tolerance takes more alcohol to show signs of visible intoxication, often resulting in an underestimation of alcohol's invisible impact.