



BEER BASICS & TASTING

BEER

KNOWLEDGE & TASTING



WATER



HOPS



GRAIN



YEAST

*4 Key ingredients to
make Beer*

MALT

Barley is the preferred grain for beer. But the starch in a grain of barley isn't ready to be fermented into alcohol, so the barley is generally converted into malted barley, or "malt." The process of malting involves soaking the barley, allowing it to germinate, and then stopping germination with heat.

HOPS

Hops are the spice of beer. They provide bitterness to balance the sweetness of the malt, as well as flavors and aromas ranging from citrus and pine to earthy and spicy.

YEAST

Yeast is the microorganism that is responsible for fermentation in beer. Yeast metabolizes the sugars extracted from grains, which produces alcohol and carbon dioxide, and thereby turns wort into beer. In addition to fermenting the beer, yeast influences the character and flavor.

ABV - ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

Alcohol by volume, or ABV, is used to measure the alcohol content of beer. Beers typically fall in the 3.0 to 13.0 percent ABV range, with the majority being 4.0 to 7.0 percent ABV.

IBU - INTERNATIONAL BITTERNESS UNIT

The standard used by brewers to indicate the bitterness level of a beer. A Pils which has 30 to 40 IBU units, will have the same level of bitterness as an English Ale that is indicated with the same numbers.

BEER READY GLASSWARE



“Flat” Beer
Film or grease attack the foam,
reducing the appeal

“False” Beer
Rapid loss of foam requiring refills to
“top off”

“Off” Taste Beer
Odors from sanitizers, bar towels and improper
storage affects quality

WATER TEST - Submerge the glass in water, when you lift it out the water should sheet off of the glass. If droplets cling that is a sign of film present.

SALT TEST - Sprinkle salt into a wet glass, it should adhere evenly to the glass vs. sinking to the bottom or sticking randomly. Salt will stick wherever a greasy film is present.

BUBBLE TEST - Beer in the glass should be clear with no bubbles rising from the bottom of the glass or clinging to the side. Bubbles indicate a dirty glass. (Exception: Sam Adams specialty glasses have an etched bottom to create release of bubbles from the bottom of the glass)

FOAM TEST - The foam or head should stay present as the guest drinks the beer. After each sip, a ring of foam should adhere to the glass. This is called lacing, and when a guest is finished you should be able to count the number of sips taken to finish the beer.