

PROS AND CONS OF MALT LIQUOR RESTRICTION TYPES

PROS

CONS

Ban on brands	
Targets only low-cost, high-alcohol products associated with public drinking, without banning regular, craft or specialty beers.	Requires substantial research to determine which brands contribute to the problem.
Can be enforced at the distributor level; if distributors are not allowed to distribute these brands, there is less need to monitor compliance in stores.	The alcohol industry may come out with new brands of the same beverage type, or rename current products.
	Monitoring compliance in stores requires tracking a potentially long list of brands.
	May be more difficult to enact and susceptible to legal challenges if enforced in a whole city because it completely bans a legal product.
Ban on single containers, including split packs	
Avoids a complete ban on a legal product, since beverages can still be sold in packs.	Also bans some regular, craft or specialty beers, which are sometimes sold in large, single bottles and may not contribute to the problem.
No need to determine which brands are causing the problem.	Cannot be enforced at the distributor level. Must be monitored on-site at individual stores, requiring more enforcement resources.
Not possible for the industry to change labels or substitute new brands.	The alcohol industry may develop new packaging, such as two-packs.
	Could lead to "bottle gangs," where consumers pool their money to buy and share a pack.
Ban on large containers	
Avoids a complete ban on a legal product, since beverages can still be sold in 12-oz. containers.	Also bans some regular, craft or specialty beers, which are sometimes sold in large, single bottles and may not contribute to the problem.
Can be enforced at the distributor level; if distributors are not allowed to distribute large bottles, there is less need to monitor compliance in stores.	Doesn't cover the sale of 12-oz. singles from split packs, which is a problem in many areas.
Easy to scan shelves and coolers for compliance.	
Ban on beers over a certain percent alcohol	
Encourages the industry to produce lower-alcohol beverages.	Also bans some craft and specialty beers, which may not contribute to the problem.
Can be enforced at the distributor level.	Difficult to monitor in stores; may require alcohol-content labeling.
Ban on large chilled containers	
Addresses the public drinking problem without banning any product.	May reduce sales of regular, craft or specialty beers, which may not contribute to the problem.
Easy to scan coolers for compliance.	Cannot be enforced at the distributor level.
Ban on large glass bottles	
Solves the problem of broken glass without banning a legal product.	Does not address cans or small bottles of malt liquor, which may also contribute to public drinking and litter.
Can be enforced at the distributor level.	Also bans some regular, craft or specialty beers, which may not contribute to the problem.
Easy to scan shelves and coolers for compliance.	