

## Cost of Brewing, Part 1 Ray Gallagher

I've had people ask me several times, "How much does it COST to brew a batch of beer?" I typically say that it depends. That usually prompts a response of rolling of the eyes and a few dirty words under the breadth of the inquirer. However, it is a very good question, and it can receive several different answers. It depends on the beer style and quantity.

We'll first look at the beginning of homebrew, the use of an extract brew kit. Let's say you want to brew a standard American Pale Ale. First, consider the cost to use an extract kit with standard dry yeast. It might cost you approximately \$23 per kit to make a five-gallon batch. That comes to about \$0.46 per bottle. Not bad considering it costs \$1.20 per bottle when you buy a 12-pack at the grocery store.

Now if you were to partake of a brew from your local brewpub at say three or four bucks a pint, it makes sense to brew your own. Second, consider the cost to brew a batch using all grain and liquid yeast. It would cost you approximately \$20 to make a five-gallon batch. That comes to about \$0.40 per bottle, or about a third the cost to buy a comparable cost of beer.

Of course, some types of beer are more expensive than others and therefore homebrewing makes sense to brew your own. Sometimes, some beer requires a more complicated brewing and fermentation process and perhaps may not make sense to brew.

The following is a summary of out of pocket costs:

Cost per bottle of beer

Extract	All-Grain	Grocery	Brewpub	Restaurant
\$0.46	\$0.40	\$1.20	\$3.00 - \$4.00	\$5.00+

Of course, this does not include all costs. Next time I'll discuss other costs that should be included to complete a batch of home brew. Until then, have a homebrew.