



33 Frequently Asked Questions about Margarita Machine Rentals:

How much does it cost to rent a margarita machine from The Margarita Man?

Our party package prices start from \$99 to \$119 per day, depending on your party date. This includes delivery (Austin zip codes), setup, pickup, your first bottle of mix concentrate, use of our 5 gallon pre-measured mixing bucket, a rolling cart to hold the machine, cups, straws and margarita salt (with a salt-rimmer) - you just provide the liquor.

Are the machines easy to use?

Yes, they are very easy to use! We mix your first batch and show you how to use the machine. We leave clear printed instructions, plus our after-hours cell phone number in case you have any questions.

Do we need to provide ice?

Ice is not required. If the machine is to be used outdoors and the high temperature is expected to be over 90 F degrees, we will provide some ice to put in the first batch to help it freeze faster. Ice can also be used to help the mix freeze faster at larger parties, but there is a special way to do this - you can ask your delivery driver for instructions.

How many drinks does one bottle of mix make?

One bottle of our traditional margarita mix will make about 75-80 eight-ounce drinks after you add the liquor and water. You can estimate that usually half your guests will drink the margaritas, even if you offer a choice. I recommend 1 mix for every 25-30 people. So for 50 people, I would recommend at least 2 mixes. A lot of it depends on how much your guests like margaritas!

I am having 150 people at my party. What would you recommend?

We normally estimate 1 machine per 50-75 people (depending on the event type). The reason for this is that it is hard for 1 machine to keep drinks frozen for many more people. So, we would recommend at least 2 machines for this event. Having a second machine gives you a chance to try another flavor, too!

Well, we're offering other drinks; will only one machine be OK?

Just be aware that our experience shows that you may not be happy with the performance of the machine if you only order 1 machine for 150 people.

Can we serve non-alcoholic drinks?

Absolutely! All our flavors are available in a non-alcoholic version, including some special flavors that are great for kids parties like Blue Raspberry or Watermelon.

What kind of mix do you provide?

It is an award-winning liquid concentrate mix made in San Antonio by The Margarita Man. The mix is specifically made for margarita machines. We tasted a lot of different mixes before we found the best mix available - Our customers love our mix! They are packaged in half gallon plastic bottles and the mix instructions are on the label.

Does the machine need electricity?

Yes, the standard margarita machine needs a dedicated 15-amp outlet, with no other electrical devices or appliances on the same circuit. The machine should be located next to the electrical outlet. If it is impossible to locate the machine next to the outlet, we will loan you the proper size extension cord (12 gauge) to operate the machine - but no further than 25 ft. from the outlet.

We're going to have our party in a park and there is no electricity. How can we use a machine?

Not to worry! We offer quiet, commercial grade Honda generator rentals for our customers. Each generator will power up to 2 margarita machines. We also use these generators for our party barge packages on local lakes.

We also have some other ways to deliver frozen drinks to your event, with no electricity at all. Give us a call to discuss this option.

Do you have machines that serve 2 flavors?

Our machines are designed to make one flavor per machine, so you could rent 2 machines with different flavors in each machine. But, we also offer a product that allows you to serve over 6 flavors with one machine (just ask about our Margarita Swirl).

What if we run out of mix?

Our biggest complaint from our customers is that they didn't order enough mix! Therefore, our policy allows you to buy as much mix as you want, and then return any unopened bottles for a full refund. You should always order extra, just to be safe, because we are unable to re-deliver mix after we have delivered your machine.

How long does the first batch take to freeze?

Less than an hour if the machine is located indoors (75 F degrees); a little longer if the machine is located outdoors and warmer. If the temperature is over 90 F degrees, it could take 2 hours or more to fully freeze. That's why "shade" is so important (or better yet, air-conditioning).

How long does it take for the second batch to freeze?

Our machines are designed so that there is no waiting between batches. Our machines have a reserve hopper that stores the extra mix that flows to the freezing chamber. As long as you keep mix in the reserve hopper, there should be no waiting.

What if I pick up the machine; is it cheaper?

We always deliver our machines. That way we can make sure they are set up and working properly before your party starts. The machines weigh about 200 pounds and are difficult to move so you'll appreciate this service.

When do you deliver the machine?

When you make your reservation we ask what time your event will start so that we can determine the appropriate delivery time. Our policy is to deliver the machine at least 2 hours before your event start time, but it may be earlier, depending on our delivery schedule. If your schedule is not flexible, you can request a specific delivery time when you make your reservation which we will do our best to accommodate. We will call you the day before your event to confirm your order and to let you know what time your machine will be delivered (within 1 hour).

What do I need to do when you deliver the machine?

When we arrive, we will need to speak with someone who will be responsible for the operation of the machine and we need the liquor for your first batch of drinks. We will make your first mix, make sure the machine is set up and operating properly, show you how to operate the machine, give you written operating instructions and our after-hours service phone number.

If you are paying by check or cash, payment is due when we deliver the machine. Gratuities for the delivery driver are neither required nor expected, but if you are so inclined, they are certainly appreciated.

When do you pick up the machine?

Usually, the next day. The delivery driver will arrange a time that is convenient to come by and pick up the machine. If the machine needs to be picked up at a specific time or on a different date, please make arrangements when you make your reservation. We do offer same night late pick-up for an additional charge.

How long do I get to keep the machine?

In theory, we rent the machines "by the day". In reality, we will deliver your machine sometime during the day of your party, then pick it up the next morning (sometimes afternoon). Please keep in mind, we rent our machines for other parties for the next day (especially on weekends), so we need to have time to clean and prepare the machine for the next rental. If you need to keep the machine for a specific amount of time, just let us know when you make your reservation and we'll try to accommodate your request.

What if I don't use all the mix?

You can return any un-opened bottles of mix for full refund or credit (depending on how you pay). You can also keep the mix and follow the recipes on the label to use it in your blender or for "margaritas on the rocks" (we keep some at home just for that reason).

What do I do if I have mix that's left in the machine?

You can dispense the mix into pitchers, other containers or zip-loc bags and store them in your freezer (or refrigerator for "on the rocks") and enjoy them after the party. We will dispose of any mix left in the machine after we pick it up.

Who provides the liquor and how much will I need?

You are responsible for the purchase of the liquor. The recipe for our traditional margaritas calls for three liters of tequila and one liter of triple sec per mix. Most other flavors use two liters of liquor per mix; just ask us when you place your order.

What type of tequila should I buy?

Inexpensive silver tequila (clear) is what we recommend. Since the margaritas are so cold, you really can't taste any difference. The liquor for the traditional margaritas should cost you about \$12 - \$20 per liter bottle, and about the same for vodka or rum.

When do I need to have the liquor?

It is very important to have the liquor available at the time of delivery to allow your delivery driver to make the first batch, complete the setup and check the operation of the machine.

How many cups do I get?

You get 50 cups per bottle of mix. Normally most people reuse their cups. That's why we provide 50 cups per mix.

What do the cups look like?

They are short, round cocktail cups. They hold approximately 8 ounces and have The Margarita Man logo on them.

Where can I put the machine?

Anywhere you'd like as long as it's next to an electrical outlet. If it's outdoors, it needs to be in a shaded area out of direct sunlight. During warmer months, we recommend that the machine be used indoors (air conditioned) for the best results (mandatory if the expected outdoor temperature is over 95 F degrees).

How big is the machine?

The machine is approximately 18 inches wide and 30 inches deep and it stands about 5 feet tall when it is sitting on the rolling cart we provide. It weighs almost 200 lbs

Can you put the machine upstairs on a second floor apartment?

There is an extra charge to take the machine up/down stairs, steep hills or other difficult situations. Please call us and explain the situation before you make your reservation for a price estimate. You can provide someone to help carry the machine, which may lower the charge, or move the machine yourself at no charge.

Is the machine noisy?

The machines have motors and fans, so they do make some noise. Most people find that when the guests arrive and fill the room, they will not notice the machine running. The machines do generate some heat, mostly during the initial freezing of the mix, but usually not enough to notice.

Is the machine messy?

Usually the machine is only as messy as your guests are! The cart that the machine sits on has a 3-inch lip around the machine that will hold just about any spill at the machine. Some customers will put a bath mat or large towel under the machine as an extra precaution to help control any spills.

Do I need a different machine for bellinis or daiquiris (or some other flavor)?

We use the same machines for all our flavors; the only difference is the flavor of the mix you put in the machine.

How soon do I need to reserve the machine?

The sooner, the better! We just need the details about your event to hold the reservation. If not today, you should call at least 2-3 weeks ahead, unless it is a holiday weekend and then I would call about 4-6 weeks ahead.