



A GAME SHOULD  
REMAIN A GAME

# GAMBLING MACHINES

*Other tools that promote low-risk  
gambling habits are available.*



[agameshouldremainagame.com](http://agameshouldremainagame.com)

*Tips, information  
and resources*

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## SETTING LIMITS IS IMPORTANT!

To avoid losing control,  
set reasonable money and time  
limits each time you gamble,  
and **be sure to stick to them:**

- > **Before each gambling session, determine the amount of money you can afford to lose.**
- > **Leave your credit and debit cards home.**
- > **Take breaks.**

# MACHINES AND THEIR *power of attraction*

In Québec, just over 20% of gamblers say they play slot machines or video lottery terminals (VLTs). Among VLT players, approximately 16% show **signs of problem gambling**, as compared to almost 3% among players overall.

16%

Machines have characteristics that are associated with an increased risk of losing control.

Here are a few of them:

- » They allow players to select the game or lines on which to bet. That may mislead players to believe they can control the game's outcome and thus increase the odds of winning.
- » They offer fast-paced games that allow betting more money in a shorter period of time.
- » They often display a series of images in which the player appears to be only one symbol away from winning (for example, a cherry or bell associated with a winning play). This could lead the player to believe he is close to winning and thus encourage him to continue playing.

## ALL *equal* IN THE FACE OF CHANCE

Machines offer games of chance, and chance is neither predictable nor controllable. Machines have no memory; every new game is a reset.

Each machine is equipped with a random number generator that produces, on an ongoing basis, thousands of combinations regardless of whether or not the player is playing. The outcome of a game is determined at the moment the player presses Play. The generator ensures that the outcome is the product of chance. The odds of winning are the same for each and every game.

*With machines,  
you either win or lose;  
you're never  
"close to winning."*

## HELP IS AVAILABLE

If you are concerned about your gambling habits or those of a loved one, call Gambling: Help and Referral at 1-800-461-0140 or go to [aidejeu.com](http://aidejeu.com).

## IT IS THEREFORE USELESS TO:

- » Try to stop the game from proceeding, for example by touching the screen or using a stop button.
- » Try to find a machine that has not paid out for some time.
- » Always play on the same machine.
- » Frequently switch from one machine to another.

Machines are programmed to retain a portion of the money players bet. That **"House advantage"** ensures revenues for the operator. In Québec, machines are programmed and set to retain approximately 8% of the money all players bet. The payout rate, i.e. the rate of redistribution to players, is an average of 92%. However, that does not mean that players have a 92% chance of winning.

The House advantage and payout rate are established over the long term, based on millions of outcomes, and cannot be observed over a short period of time or for individual players.

8%