



THE POOL TABLE BUYER'S GUIDE

How to Find and Buy the Perfect Pool Table



HOW TO START YOUR SEARCH

So you're thinking about buying a Pool Table, Shuffleboard or other piece of Game Room Equipment? Sometimes the number of choices can seem overwhelming. No need to worry, because here at The Spa and Sauna Company family of stores, we have pool table and game room experts available in store and online to make your search easier.

With 2 stores in [Reno](#) and [Sparks](#) that sell both new and used pool tables, you're sure to find a quality pool table. Did we mention that our South Virginia St. Store, next to WinCo, has been voted the [Best Hot Tub/Billiard Store](#) by the Reno Gazette Journal in their Best of Reno edition, which is based on votes from members of the Reno community.

You can rely on expert advice to help you answer a number of questions, including:

[How Big Does My Room Need to be for a Pool Table?](#)

to

[How Much does a Quality Pool Table Cost?](#)

to

[What comes with a Quality Pool Table Purchase?](#)

to

[Should I buy a Used Pool Table on Craigslist?](#)

to

[What Fun Games Should I Play on A Pool Table?](#)



OUR VENDORS

There are a number of factors that go into the construction of a pool table that can make the difference between a lifetime of use and a shorter-term investment.

We are partnered with the most-renowned Billiard Manufacturers in the business – [Brunswick Billiards](#) and [Olhausen Billiards](#), so you can rest assured that you are investing in a quality product, when you purchase from The Spa and Sauna Company. We also carry a few items from Legacy Billiards, a value line of pool table and game room equipment.



SOME QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU NARROW DOWN YOUR SEARCH

Why do you want a pool table or shuffleboard?

(Examples: For Décor, or Play)

When purchasing a pool table or shuffleboard, you should determine if the table will serve as a center piece that decorates your home, a gaming area, or both. Additionally, if you are planning on using the pool table a lot, durability will definitely be a consideration. Our Pool Table Experts can discuss details of construction related to the specific pool table you are considering, and if they suit your needs.

Who is going to be playing on the pool table?

(Examples: Adults only, Children only, The Entire Family)

What are the dimensions of the rooms in which the table will go?

Tables come in many different sizes: 6 foot (a specialty size), 7 foot, 8 foot (home size), over-sized 8 foot (pro size), and 9 foot (tournament size). The size of the room and the table's surroundings should determine which size table is right for your entertainment room. A great rule of thumb is to allow between 4.5 and 5 feet on every side of the table. More is better and less means using shorter cues. This can vary. We have a helpful video and blog to give you some guidance. To read the complete blog and watch the video [click here](#).

What is your budget?

Brunswick Billiards and Olhausen Billiards offer customization of their pool tables in a variety of styles. Pool table pricing starts at about \$2,150 and many models can be found in the \$3,000 to \$7,000 range. However, as you customize design, finishes, sites, types of cloth, and add upgrades, pricing can go over \$10,000. These questions will help you narrow down what you are looking for and help our Pool Table Experts find the Perfect Pool Table for you. You can even take a short quiz [here](#).



CONSTRUCTION COMPONENTS

WOOD

Wood is an important element in table construction and decoration. The type of wood used and the intricacies of the woodworking on the table will directly impact the value. Tables that are constructed of laminates, particleboard, and plywood will not have a long lifespan.

Wood will determine the cost of your table. The highest quality and most expensive wood tables employ solid hardwoods in ALL components of the table: legs, cabinet, frame, and rails. Very simply, a hardwood table will cost more than soft woods and laminates.

SLATE

A slate surface is the only playing surface recognized by the Billiard Congress of America and that is suitable for tournament play. Many experts will agree that one-inch slate is all you need. We have a team of professional installers, who have spent decades assembling, leveling and relocating high quality pool tables with slate.

SIGHTS/INLAYS

Functionally, sights are the markers on top of the rails used for reference points when aiming. The sights are placed around the table in precise geometric locations to help players aim and gauge angles. Cosmetically, sights can range in shapes, sizes, and materials and add to the look and design of the table. However, depending on the material used for the sight and the level of the detail required to create the sight, sights can increase the expense of the table.

CLOTH

Billiard cloth (sometimes called felt) is a specific type of cloth that covers the top of the table's playing area. Billiard cloth is generally made of either a wool/nylon blend or a synthetic nylon. Cloth can be described as either tournament quality or recreational quality. We have a variety of cloth styles and colors for you to choose from, to suit your cloth durability and style needs.



CUSHIONS

Cushions are the inside walls on the playing surface of a pool table, and are critical for the reputation of the table. Quality cushions will provide years of accurate and consistent play, while bad or dead cushions can negatively affect the table's playability.

RAILS

Rails are the top part of the table and are attached to the cushions, pockets, and in many cases will also be fastened to the slate. The rail is virtually connected to every part of the playing surface, and the stability of the rail mounts is crucial for accurate play. Solid hardwood rails should always be preferred when considering the longevity and playability of the table.

LEGS

The legs on a pool table can come in many shapes and styles, but no matter what the legs look like the most important factor is how well they will support the table. When analyzing the legs on the table, give the table a good nudge, if the table appears wobbly then it probably is. There are endless variations of table legs: pedestals, hollow tapered, solid turned, and solid carved, to just name a few.



PRICE COMPARISONS

TOY TABLE - \$600-\$1400

A table in this range usually isn't meant to last more than a few years. It is lightly constructed, uses poor-quality slate or a slate substitute, and is easily knocked off kilter by roughhousing or by folks sitting on the rails. At best its perfect for the kids' rec room, but not meant for anyone serious about enjoying the game.

BASIC TABLE - \$1500-\$2400

This is the minimum you can expect to pay for a table providing reliable play without bells, whistles or fancy trimmings. You should be able to bang around on this table for years (with proper care), but you're not likely to pass it on to your kids. Be careful to scrutinize the slate, cabinet materials and construction. Design options may also be limited in this price range.

MEDIUM GRADE - \$2500-\$3500

In this price point range you will find tables that are substantial, well constructed and fancy enough to show off to your friends. You should expect high construction quality in this price point range. Here, the price can fluctuate quite a bit depending on the level of finishes and decorative work.

HEIRLOOM GRADE - \$3500+

This is the cream of the crop. In this range you are buying a topquality table that you can display in your home as a fine piece of furniture. All of the materials are topnotch, including hardwoods throughout the body, lively rubber for the cushions, and three-piece, oneinch slate with strong framing and center-beam support. You also should receive a long-term warranty. Your design options in this range will be endless.



CONCLUSION

FINAL SUGGESTION

After you have read up on pool tables, [come see us](#), call us, or chat with us online. Feel free to ask questions. Buying from a Big Box Store or from an Online Mass Retailer, that doesn't specialize in billiards, is going to be a very different experience than shopping with a local company with more than 30 years selling leisure equipment – including Hot Tubs, Swim Spas, Pool Tables, BBQs and more, in the Reno-Tahoe community. We have worked with hundreds of customers, with similar needs to your own and helped them find their Perfect Pool Table or Shuffleboard – AND we can help you find yours too. To learn more about how to get started with your pool table purchase, call us at 775-852-3838 or visit us [here](#).

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We hope this guide has been helpful in assisting you to make the best pool table buying decision for you and your family.