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## Pool Tables: Which Type Should You Choose?

By Olga Sen

A pool table is a rectangular table. It has six pockets and consists of cushions bounding the playing area. The standard size of a pool table is 4 1/2 x 9. Wood is the major element in the construction of a pool table. Oak and cherry wood tables are preferred for professional pool players, while plywood or pine is recommended for other customers. The quality of wood contributes to the strength of a pool table.

Pool tables are purchased all over the world for a number of reasons. People buy pool tables for commercial purposes, for private recreation, for clubs and they are even purchased for pool competitions. These competitions can be announced at national as well as international levels.

Pool tables are available in varied shapes and styles to suit the requirements of the customers. Pool tables are inclusive of many accessories and parts, which complement to their class and quality.

**The History of Pool Tables** The history of pool is quite debatable. The reason for debate is related to its origin. Some people believe it was invented in Persia, while the others believe that it was invented in England or France.

Pool was not played on tables in its earliest version. It was played on lawns. The purpose of the game was to knock over a cone-shaped object by shooting balls through a course of hoops.

The game was then played indoors on the floor. As a result of constant bending, players suffered from back pain. Then it was thought that the game should be played atop a table and this is how pool tables came into existence.

With the game shifted atop tables, another problem was faced by the players. The ball kept rolling off the tables. To solve this problem, wooden rails were attached to the edges of the pool tables, to keep the balls on the table.

In 1600's rubber strips were added to the wooden side rails. These rubber strips acted as cushions for the balls to give them bounce, when the balls hit the edge of tables. To add to the comfort of players, a

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thin green wool cloth was used to cover the tables. This provided the players with precision and accuracy in their shots. The color green was used as the cloth as the games was initially played in grass.

Next the whole concept of playing pool changed. To make the game more interesting, two round holes were cut in the table ends. The purpose of the pool changed from knocking the cones over to knocking the balls into the holes. Underneath the pool tables were attached pocket size bags to prevent the ball from falling on the ground.

The pockets in the pool tables kept on evolving till the six-pocketed pool table was born.

**Types of Pool Tables** Pool tables are available in many shapes, styles, sizes and colors. Generally pool tables are of three types: cost efficient style, finely hand crafted wood designs and designs of new age pools.

**Cost Efficient Styles** Cost efficient tables are ordered and required for clubs, pubs and pool hall owners. These pool tables are used by club and pub owners to attract more customers to their place. Almost all public houses have pool tables today. These pool tables are cheaper than the other pool tables. These tables are readily available in the retail outlets. The material used in these pool tables is hard, but it gradually wears down.

**Finely Handcrafted Wood Designs** These pool tables are in a class of their own. They are made for residential game rooms or private pool clubs. The pool tables are made to order and the purchaser gives the manufacturer the finer details of the desired pool table. The wood commonly used in these pool tables is cherry or oak. These tables have detailed cushions, corners and legs.

**New Age Designs** These pool tables are especially made to suit the modern day quality and requirements. These pool tables can be made of glass, brass, wood or chrome. These tables have multicolored sides, legs and tops. Modern club and pub owners, clientele based office owners are generally the purchasers of these tables.

Pool tables are available for everyone, according to their requirements. The cost of a pool table also varies accordingly, with the cost being inclusive of the quality, class and type of the pool table.

Olga Sen writes articles on a number of different topics. For more information on Pool Tables please visit

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## Fun Ways To Enjoy Pool & Billiards

By Dennis Conner

Billiards is a term used to describe a family of games that are played on a table and with a cue stick. Commonly, the stick is used to strike billiard balls and move them around the table. Billiard games are played indoors and the most popular, which many people enjoy, is the game of pool.

Common pool games include 8-ball, 9-ball, straight pool and one-pocket. Pool tables are large square units that feature pockets for players to attempt sending the balls into. Previously exclusive to pool rooms, the game of pool has now become a popular household addition to many homes. Pool enthusiasts often include a pool room in their own home, which features a table, cue sticks and billiard balls. This is a terrific game for entertaining and is one of the most enjoyable games of competition that can be played indoors.

Because the game of pool is so very popular, it is used to entertain on many occasions. This article will attempt to provide a few ideas for hosting a pool tournament or competition in the comfort of your own home.

\$ Pool is a terrific pastime to enjoy in the company of friends and family. Perhaps a family game of men against women or friends playing on teams against one another would make for a fun evening.

\$ If you are having a family reunion or other social event, consider inviting everyone into your home for a friendly game of pool.

\$ What if boys night out transformed into boys night in with a game of pool? This is a terrific way for him to have fun with his friends, but still enjoy the comforts of home.

\$ If you are entering a professional pool tournament with the opportunity to win cash or other prizes, you will need to be on top of your game. Having a pool table in your home or basement may just provide you with the additional practice time and edge that you need to win out over the competition. If practice makes perfect, then you will be glad to have a pool table within your reach at any given moment.

\$ Pool doesn't have to be a competition. In fact, there is nothing wrong with practicing alone and just mastering some of your best pool moves.

Pool tables are available in a variety of sizes and are designed to fit an array of budgets. Large tables are designed for adults, but even the kiddies often love to play. For the youngsters, small pool tables are designed of sturdy plastic and feature small cue sticks and billiard balls for their enjoyment. Large tables range in price from several hundred dollars and up depending on the quality and type of table that you purchase. Children's pool tables, on the other hand, are very inexpensive and can be found for less than \$50.00. Thanks to the creative minds of toy manufacturers, pool really can be a family sport.

The author is a regular contributor to

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