

## "What" do you look for when buying a used table or new table?

### 1) Slate

3/4" or 1", BOTH are fine for a 8' or smaller home table. A 3 piece slate bed is much better than a one piece bed. Slate that screws to the base frame of the pool table is essential for slates not to separate over the years. Framed 1' slate is the most expensive and gives slightly better performance.

### 2) Cabinet

The frame of a pool table is called the cabinet. When looking at a used table get down and look under the cabinet and table. Check the legs to see if they have been wet or have mold. This is usually a sign that water has damaged the legs and could result in split legs or the stability of the table has been compromised. Many less expensive "game room" tables have pedestal(2 legs) with long blind rails along the sides. Furniture style tables are usually more expensive and attractive with 4 carved(Ram's Head/Ball and Claw) legs.

### 3) Rails

You want rails that have the nuts INSIDE the rail itself, like Brunswick. These are called rail nut inserts or recessed nuts. You do NOT want rails where the plates are screwed to the bottom surface of the rail. They are less stable and durable.

### 4) Pockets

Pockets made of vinyl as in commercial tables or entry level are durable and long lasting albeit ugly. Traditional leather pockets should be inspected for cuts in the leather that chip the balls. They can be replaced but cost starts at approximately \$100 to \$400. The leather pockets are much more common and much more attractive.

### 5) Cloth

Cloth can be reused, but any small holes when recovered become large holes. The cost of cloth starts at \$130. Rails are tricky to recover...do not even attempt to do them yourself. The bed cloth you can do yourself, if you are handy and can follow directions. BilliardMover.com so you don't need to take the risk of damaging the table or hurting your back.

### 6)Pool vs snooker pocket

Pool tables are not all alike. There are actually three types. Carom without pockets which is not common and we all know what they look like (no pockets on the table) Snooker pockets used for 2 1/16" balls usually played on a 6 x 12 table but in the 70's and 80's many were sold in 4 x 8 and 4 1/2 x 9 size. Pool (Boston in Ontario) pocket for balls 2 1/4". Today most people want a pool pocket as it is more player friendly and this is the game we are going to play the most. How do you tell the size of pocket? Snooker tables have round pocket openings whereas pool have V

nosed or triangular shaped. In the past snooker tables have one spot per rail whereas pool had three spots per rail ...however some tables have been re-rubbered and have been changed. The price of used snooker table is half of pool tables in today market as the snooker table is not the preferred players today. Unfortunately the opposite is true of new tables as many manufactures have seized to make snooker tables. new snooker

## 7) Room Size:

Check our room chart so you do not get too big a table for your room.

### [room dimensions](#)

NEVER assume the size of a table without ACTUALLY measuring the width between the cushion noses.

## MOVING your new used table.

NEVER, EVER try to move a pool table by getting a bunch of guys and picking it up! NEVER! There are only a handful of tables made that are designed to be moved in this manner and they are 8 foot bar tables, usually with coin mechanisms and 1 piece slate beds. You do NOT want a table like this for a home. If you want to crack the slate, pop the cabinet joints, split the rails, or otherwise destroy your "find" of a pool table....go ahead, move it in one piece. The best and safest way is to hire a pro to do the entire job. But if you are "handy", have a couple friends who don't mind lifting, and have access to a vehicle that can carry at least 1,000 lb...then go ahead and disassemble and move it to your room yourself. Then hire a pro to do the set up. Set up is the MOST critical part. Disassembly Take a Magic Marker and match-mark EVERYTHING where it will not show! Do as much marking as you can BEFORE you start disassembling, then continue marking as you go. This is to make sure the table goes back together EXACTLY the way it came apart. Remove the rails first (bolts under the rails). Remove the pockets (bolted to the rails, but the rails usually have to come off the table first). Remove the screws holding the slate to the cabinet (a 3/8 variable speed drill with the correct Phillips bit is best here). Remove the slate from the table and transport VERTICALLY on EDGE. Do NOT lay the slate flat unless you first make crates out of 2x4s and clamp each piece of slate in it's own crate. A cracked slate can cost upwards of \$300 to replace. If necessary, remove the legs. A 1" thick slate, 9 foot table will weigh around 1,000 pounds. ALWAYS use a weight support belt when lifting heavy objects. ALWAYS lift correctly. Use your head. Not your back! Most tables can be moved in pieces with 2 average men.

Hire a BilliardMover.com if you think it's beyond your strength, or abilities. It's not worth destroying the table, or going to the hospital with a damaged back. Don't be "penny wise...pound foolish".

\*\*\*\*\*

## When is it time to replace a cloth?

When the cloth is torn, picked badly, or worn excessively, it is reasonably obvious that a cloth change is needed, but we replace a lot of cloth for cosmetic reasons.

### When is it time to replace the cushion rubber?

Not as often as some people think. The cushion rubber can dry rot with age, get harder or softer etc., but on average we find more problems in the field with the cloth not being pulled properly, or the cushion glue being broken. If someone's sits on the rail, it will depress the cushion and cause the glue joint to break....that is why you do not sit on a table. The biggest type of cushion problems we see, seem to come from imported cheap tables with cheap rubber cushions.

**OK, there you have it.** A brief summary of where to look, and what to look for according to me. Remember, everyone has an opinion. And I am entitled to mine. So if you disagree with me on any point, that's your privilege. This is what I look for, and my standards are admittedly high.

Be patient. Use common sense. And you could have that pool table you've always wanted at a price you never thought possible.