

THE COMPLETE BUYER'S GUIDE FOR GAME TABLES

OUTFITTING YOUR GAME ROOM WITH TOP NOTCH PRODUCTS



PRESENTED BY



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Presented by :
Game Table Genie

What's a game room without any game tables? If you're planning for a game room as your newest home project, then you certainly need game furniture to complete the room. With game tables, it would be more fun and entertaining to spend time in the space, whether with family or friends. Aside from the quality time you'll get to enjoy, having game tables make it safer and more convenient to play your favorite games.

However, there are a lot of factors to consider when choosing game tables. It may be overwhelming to find the best ones for your game room. Fortunately, you have Game Table Genie to help you. Game Table Genie is a reputable retailer with massive knowledge about all kinds of game tables. With a reliable source, you'll have the right information you need to choose the right tables for your game room.



Pool Tables

A pool table in the game room is a classic choice. Pool is one of the most popular game choices for families and friends. You can play a variety of pool games such as billiards, snooker, and eight-ball.

One of the best pool table products you can get with good quality and price is [GLD's Fat Cat Reno Pool Table](#). It's 7.5 feet long and has a spacious surface and robust construction, offering a consistent, level playing surface for you, your family, and your friends.

Available Types and Sizes

There are different types of pool tables you can get and all have different standard sizes. They can be 6 feet to 9 feet, following the 2:1 ratio requirement for pool tables. This means the table has to be twice as long as it is wide.

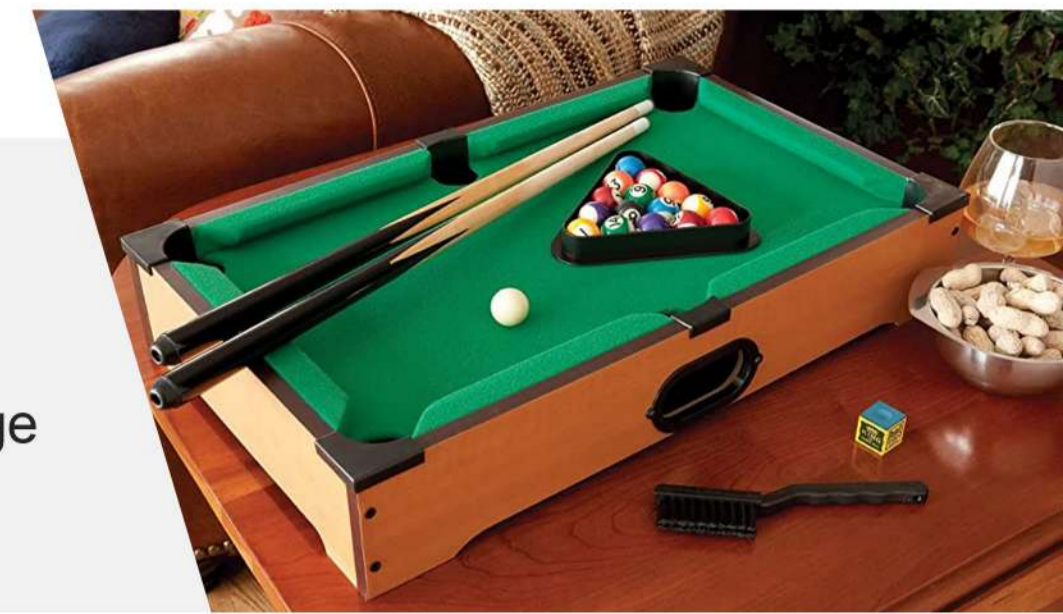
Common pool table size is 8 feet long and 4 feet wide, with heights between 29.25 to 31 inches. However, pool tables used for tournament plays are larger than the standard pool tables.

Here are the different types of pool tables and their standard sizes:



• Mini Pool Table

Depending on who will use it or how it'll be used, its size can range from 20 inches to 5 feet in length.



• Bar Pool Table

This is larger in size than a mini and is 7 feet long and 3.5 feet wide. As the name suggests, it's commonly used in bars.



• Professional Pool Table

The king of pool tables and can measure from 9 feet long and 4.5 feet wide up to 12 feet long and 6 feet wide.



• Snooker Table

This type is larger than standard pool tables and is used in clubs and tournaments as well. A table's size can range from 9 feet long to 12 feet long.



Materials and Construction Quality

The material and construction of the pool table, especially the tabletop, are important since they'll affect the overall durability of the table. Aside from the tabletop, other parts, like the frame and legs, are usually made of metal or wood.

Different types of metal are preferred since they're usually more lightweight and portable than wood. However, wood is cheaper and more durable than metal.

Here are the different materials that can make up a pool table:

• Slate

This is a gold standard material used for pool tables. Slate is a type of rock with minerals like quartz, chlorite, and mica. It has a bluish color and is composed of different thin, flat layers of sedimentary materials. Because it's made of rock, you can expect a pool table made with slate to be more expensive and heavier than those made of other materials.

Still, because of its composition and durability, you can expect to use it for many years. Unlike wood and synthetic materials, it won't warp, sag, or twist, even if it gets wet.



• Synthetic Materials

Pool tables can also be made of synthetic materials, which are cheaper than slate pool tables. There are three main types of synthetic materials used for pool tables: honeycomb, slatron, particleboard, and medium-density fiberboard (MDF).

Honeycomb and slatron are made of compressed and hardened plastic. Honeycomb pool tables are made of plastics with honeybee-like surfaces. Slatron or permaslate is made of plastic that covers particleboard.

MDF, on the other hand, is crafted from adjoined small pieces of wood. Although MDF is not as sturdy as slate, it still offers a level playing field and can be a viable option for casual players or those on a tighter budget.

• Plastic and Rubber

Regular plastic and rubber are also widely used in pool tables, especially for their gaming equipment. For instance, smooth rubber is commonly used on the table's rails to facilitate optimal ball rebound and consistent gameplay.

When evaluating the quality of plastic and rubber components, durability is of utmost importance. High-quality rubber on the rails ensures better ball response and extends the lifespan of the table's playing surface.

Additional Features and Accessories

For a better gaming experience, it's best to get a pool table with additional features and accessories. A standard pool table comes with the following set:



Billiard balls



Chalk / Pool chalk



Two cue sticks



Triangle rack

You can also get these for your pool table:



Ball cleaner



Cue racks



Table cover



Table iron

Factors to Consider When Buying a Pool Table

When you're buying a pool table for your game room, make sure to consider the following factors:

Size:

Measure your game room before buying a pool table. This allows you to get the right pool table size.

Material:

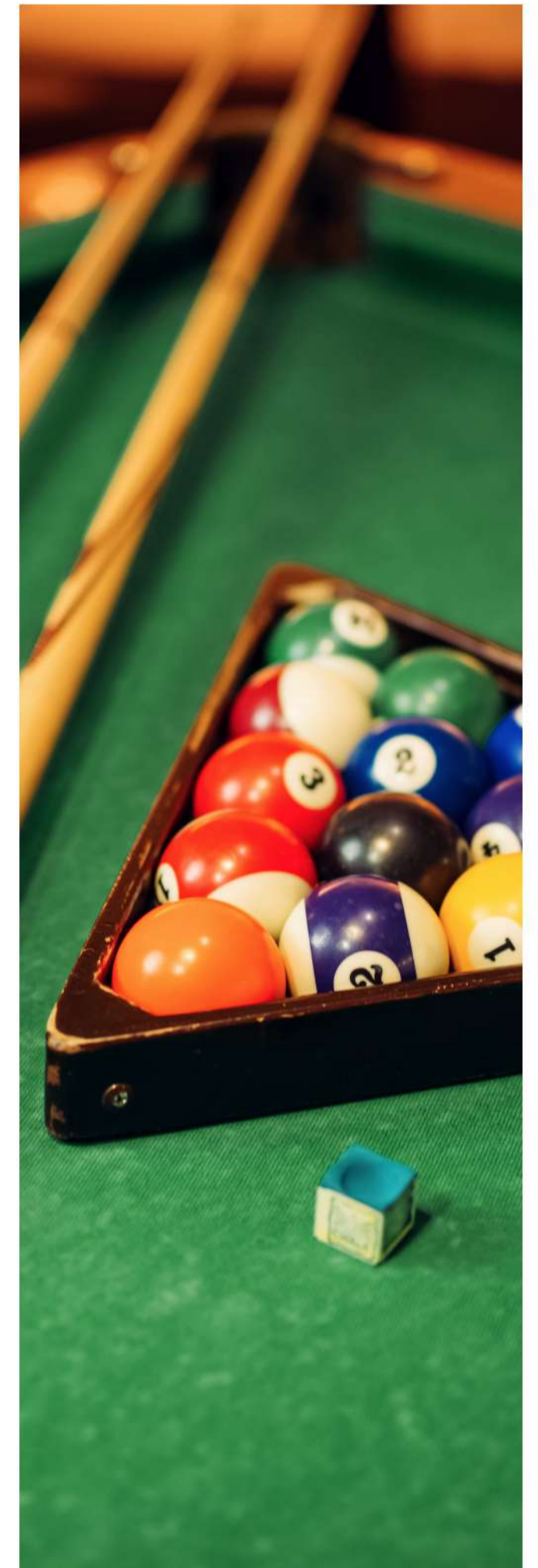
Decide on your pool table's material. Keep in mind that your choice of material impacts the cost and durability.

Features and Accessories:

Look for pool tables with good features and accessories that will help you take your gaming experience to the next level. This can include a table cover, cue rack, table bumpers, and more.

Budget:

Always consider how much you're willing to spend for a pool table. Plan your budget ahead of time so you can narrow down your choices. As a guide, budget tables can go as low as \$500, while medium-quality tables usually start from \$1,500.



Pool Cues

Aside from table, you need pool cues to enjoy playing. Pool cues affect your play performance and are the links between you and the game. If you want accurate and powerful shots every time, you need to make sure you have good pool cues.

One of the best pool cues we recommend is [Cue Stix International's Katana KAT16 Cue](#). It has a sleek and cool metallic design with black, white, blue, and gray points. It also comes with joint protectors so you can take care of it properly.

Different Cue Styles and Designs

Cues vary depending on their styles and designs. In general, here are the most common styles or types of cues you can get:

- **English Cues**

English cues come in a standard size or length of 57 inches. They're designed with conveniently placed butts that will provide you greater control over the ball and can help make long or far shots. Their tips are usually 8 to 9.5 mm, making them suitable for 2.55 mm balls.

- **Carbon Fiber Cues**

This is a new type or style of cue and is made of one of the strongest materials – carbon fiber. Due to the nature of the carbon material, these cues are sturdier and more lightweight than other cue styles or types. However, it can be more expensive than the others.

- **Snooker Cues**

Snooker cues are slightly different from the others because these can also be used in different games. They're made from ash wood with lengths between 56 to 59 inches and tips between 9 to 10 mm, making them highly stable and strong when hitting the ball.

- **American Cues**

These cues are usually made of maple and greatly vary in length. The standard pool cue size of American cues varies between 57 to 58 inches, but you can also have it custom-made for you. Unlike English or Snooker cues, American cues have larger tips and are sometimes heavier too.

- **Wooden Cues**

These are traditional pool cues that have been used since the advent of the pool. Wooden pool cues would be a good cue choice if you want a vintage feel on your pool table. Many players actually love using these cues because of the sound it makes when they hit the ball. The tips of these cues vary as well and can be customized to achieve different pool tricks like jump, spin, and more.

- **Stock Cues**

These are the club cues, which are cheaper, so you'll generally find them in pubs or bars but not in professional setups. Unlike the other types of cues, stock cues are made in one piece and come with the pool table when you buy it.



Materials and Construction Quality

Pool cues are commonly made up of two main pieces: the shaft and the butt. The larger end of the cue is the butt and the tapered end is the shaft. The two components are joined in the middle by a joint, which is commonly made of metal or brass with a pin.

These pieces can then be made of different materials, which can generally affect how you make your shot. Here are the widely used pool cue materials:

- **Wood:**



Wood is preferred by many since it gives a good 'hit feel' and is good for continued use. Most pool cues are made from quality maple wood, especially the shafts. Other cues can be made of woods like pine, ebony, ivory, blackwood, ziricote, and bocote.

- **Fiberglass:**



This is a popular alternative to wood since it tends to be cheaper. Pool cues made with fiberglass are usually constructed with fiberglass bonded around a wood core inside the stick. It's a common choice for beginners and intermediate players who want low-cost and durable cues.

- **Carbon Fiber:**



This is one of the most recently used materials for pool cues. It's hard as steel but is lightweight compared to steel, making pool cues extremely durable and easy to use.

Weight and Balance Considerations

Aside from the material and construction of the cue, it's also important to consider the weight and balance of the cue. Pool cues usually weigh between 18 to 21 ounces as a whole, with most of the weight in the cue's butt. The weight isn't related to the player's strength but is more affected by the comfortability of the player.

For example, many professionals or experienced players prefer light-weight pool cues. In general, it's up to the player's preferences but keep in mind that the weight of the cue affects the intensity of the hit or break you'll make.

Aside from the weight, the length of the cue and the player's arm length need to be considered to ensure balance when using cues. If you have a shorter than average arm span, a long pool cue can be heavier to use and it'd be harder to balance how to use it. That's why if you're on the shorter side, a shorter cue would be a better option and if you're on the longer side, a longer one would be good.

Tips For Selecting the Right Cue For Your Game Table

To help you choose the right pool cue for your pool table, here are five useful tips:

1. Ensure that the pool cue fits the length of your arm and is perfectly straight so you can have full control when playing.
2. If you feel too heavy in the back of your hand or are a relatively short person, a lightweight cue would be easier to use.
3. If you want to use a cue with a wrap for a better grip, use fine linen or leather, especially if you sweat a lot.
4. Consider your game style when choosing a cue tip. A soft tip is ideal if you like to put a lot of spin on the ball while a hard tip isn't as good but lasts longer.
5. It's best to choose a pool cue with a cue case to ensure its safety when you're not using it. Hardcase boxes are ideal to separate the butt and shaft and keep them from damaging each other when stored.

Game Room Tables

Aside from the popular pool game, there are lots of other games you can play in your game room, such as:



Air Hockey



Shuffleboard



Table Tennis



Poker



Foosball



Multi Games



Darts

Air Hockey Tables

Air hockey is a popular fast-paced table game that can be played by people of any age. Having your very own air hockey table will surely keep a fun and exciting atmosphere in your game room.

Air hockey tables come in different sizes, designs, and styles. Their sizes are commonly between 4 feet to 8 feet, so you can choose between large or small puck tables. Large puck tables are designed to cater to heavy home and commercial usage, offering a more solid arcade-like feel. They are well-suited for players who seek a professional gaming experience. On the other hand, smaller puck tables are typically constructed with more affordable materials, making them suitable for children or smaller players who enjoy casual play. They are a great choice for family settings and recreational use.

Aside from the sizes and designs, air hockey tables also have blower motors that affect the airflow and your overall gaming performance.

High-quality tables have small holes placed close to each other, giving a consistent airflow throughout the whole surface. However, cheaper units usually have fewer and larger holes, which can slightly affect the speed of your puck once hit. If you're using the table for casual plays, a table with a single blower motor would be enough for a good airflow while playing.

Lastly, you also have to ensure the durability and build quality of your preferred table. Air hockey is exciting and the table should be able to withstand the weight and force of the players. One way to ensure it's durable is to look at its assembly. Look for tables with supporting bars that strengthen all the potential weak points of the table.

One of the best air hockey tables we recommend is [GLD's Fat Cat Volt 7' Illuminated Table](#). It's an illuminated air hockey table with an electronic scoreboard and sound effects. This provides an arcade-like feel and look and an exhilarating gaming experience.

Shuffleboards

Shuffleboard is one of the classic table games that two to four players can play. It was introduced in 1913, and today, you can find many kinds of shuffleboard tables.

Shuffleboard tables come in many sizes, usually ranging from 9 to 22 feet in length and 16 to 20 inches in width. They're also commonly made of durable and sturdy hardwood materials, which is important because the surface material and finish affect how smooth or rough the gameplay would be.

Among the many materials, maple, oak, birch, and mahogany are the best options. They're economical, reliable, and durable, especially with polymer finish. Ultimately, you want a solid hardwood playing surface for your table since they're more immune to damage from the impacts of the pucks when playing. In terms of finish, a polymer is the most ideal since it's more durable and lasts longer.

Additionally, these tables usually have special powder preservatives and paint that ensure durability and a fine look on the tables. But, in order to maintain the table even if there are changes in temperature or humidity, look for tables with climatic adjusters. This way, you can prevent your table from developing a convex or concave shape.

Table Tennis

Table tennis or ping pong is a popular game room game and sport. Mostly because it requires little equipment to play. A standard table tennis table is 9 feet long, 5 feet wide, and about 2.6 feet high with a net of 6 feet long and 6 inches high. However, the durability of the table is affected by its thickness.

Thicker tables are more resilient to wear, with 22 to 25 mm thicknesses, and give superb ball bounces. But if you're on a budget, 19mm tabletops are enough for fun gameplay between family and friends. However, thinner tables can be more flimsy and less durable, leading to potential wear and tear over time. Due to the reduced thickness, the ball may give a shorter bounce, which could impact the overall gameplay dynamics.

One of the best characteristics of these tables is they're usually foldable, allowing flexible storage options. This makes it easier to get inside the game room, set it up, and store it. Of course, there are still [unfoldable models](#) so for better storage options, choose one that's foldable.

Poker Tables

Poker is one of the most fun and simple game for family and friends. To create a professional poker game setting in your game room, you'd need a good poker table.

Poker tables come in three main shapes or formats:

Oval Poker Table:

This tables comes in a standard size of 92 x 44 x 30 inches, and can hold up to 10 players..

Round Poker Table:

This is the least common design with varying sizes from 48 to 60 inches wide, and can hold up to 5 players.

Octagonal Poker Table:

This is the most popular design that comes in a standard size of 48 x 48 x 30 inches, and can hold up to 6 players.

Depending on the type and model of poker table you get, you can also enjoy different tabletops. Tabletop materials provide cushioning when playing and ensure smooth access to the cards.

The standard options include felt, velvet, and speed cloth. Felt is a traditionally used material but isn't durable enough to last long. Velvet, on the other hand, holds up better than felt and feels like a high-end material. Lastly, speed cloth is the material used in casinos and is the best among the three. It's resistant to stains and dirt and feels good to the touch.

To enjoy a full poker experience, it's good to get a poker table with poker accessories like [cup holders and chip trays](#). Cup holders are a good accessory especially if you like to drink while playing. The chip tray, on the other hand, stores your chips to avoid losing them and keeps your chips organized while playing.

Foosball Table

Foosball is another classic table game perfect for family, friends, and even for solo plays. For a good foosball experience, you need to find the right table. Standard foosball tables come in a size of 56 inches in length and 30 inches in width. But there are foosball tables with smaller dimensions to fit in your game room.

There are also different types and designs of foosball tables based on functionality:

- **Foosball Coffee Tables:** These coffee tables feature glass tops that cover the playing area. This makes them excellent mini foosball tables with the added advantage of serving as coffee tables when not in use for gameplay.
- **Coin-Operated:** While this is not ideal for a home game room, this type of foosball table remains popular among arcade owners who use it to generate revenue from players.
- **Foldable:** This is the perfect choice if you have limited space since you can fold and store the table once you're done playing.

Aside from the design, you can also get a foosball table based on your preferred material. Here are the most commonly used materials for foosball tables:

- **Wood:** Wooden foosball tables have a classy and elegant look and come in different wood tones so you can match it to your room's decor. Although they're durable, they can be expensive and prone to stains and warping.
- **Metal:** This is a sturdy and reliable material for foosball tables. Usually in stainless steel, these foosball tables can withstand forceful playing and don't break or bend. However, they can be heavy and expensive as well.

- **Composite:** This is a good option if you prefer a wood-like look for a cheaper price. Composite foosball tables are made out of manufactured wood so they're more lightweight and affordable.
- **Plastic:** This is one of the most common materials used for foosball tables. The overall quality of the table hinges on the specific plastic's construction and grade. Generally, plastic offers durability and lightweight properties, making it a suitable option for creating your foosball table.

Aside from the overall foosball table, you should also look at the rods and players. Rods come in three styles: solid, hollowed out, and telescoping. Solid rods are known for their strength, but they come with the drawback of being heavy and slower to react. On the other hand, hollowed-out rods are relatively faster due to their lighter weight. Meanwhile, telescoping rods are designed for safety since they don't extend out of the table, making them ideal for younger players.

Additionally, for the most ball control possible when playing, it's best to get a table with foosball players that have pointed toes and cross-hatching designs.

Lastly, consider these features and accessories when choosing a foosball table for your game room:

- **Table's Legs:** The legs are important since they support the whole table and provide stability. Make sure to look for a foosball table with thick legs to ensure the stability and durability of the table.
- **Adjustable Table Height:** Common foosball tables have a height of 36 inches, making them unsuitable for kids. If you have kids in the house, it's best to look for a table with an adjustable height so everyone can play the game.
- **Scoring Unit:** Most foosball tables come with built-in scoring units while some require you to buy a separate one to use. A sliding scoring unit would be helpful in keeping the progress of the game.

- **Table Cover:** It's important to store or protect the table when not in use. The best way to do that is by using tablecovers, which are bought separately. It's a worthy investment because it'll protect your table.
- **Goalie Configuration:** The goalies in foosball tables can either be single or come in three. Depending on your preferences or skills, you can get a table that has one goalie or three goalies. For best usage, you can get one that can be changed from three goalies to one and vice versa.

One of the best foosball tables we recommend is [GLD's Fat Cat Tirade MMXI Foosball Table](#). It's a sturdy and reliable table that has durable and reinforced steel rods and legs. It also comes with many accessories that are essential for gaming, including two balls.

Multi Game Table

A multi game table has a space-saving design since you can easily swap between different table games, like ping pong, chess, pool, foosball, and many more.

The decision on what kind of multi game table you should get would depend on the types of games your family and friends enjoy. For example, if you like board games, like chess and checkers, and blackjack at the same time, [Butler Specialty's Company Vincent Multi-Game Card Table](#) is one of the best options you have.

On the other hand, if you prefer a table that you can use for card games and as a dining surface, [RAM Game Room's 48" Game Table](#) is a good option. It comes in a classic style and is made from chestnut, giving the table a beautiful solid construction and finish.

These multi game tables have an easy conversion mechanism since you don't have to rotate or fold anything so you can play a different game. However, the most common and popular multi game tables are those that are used by flipping over or attaching a separate tabletop to switch to a different game.

One great example of this is [GLD's Fat Cat 3-in-1 7' Pockey Multi-Game Table](#). You can use it to play three different classic games and comes in a versatile design so you can easily switch between games. You just need to unlock the latches and flip its tri-fold tabletop over to choose between billiards, table tennis, or hockey.

With multi game tables, you usually don't have to worry about the basic accessories like the pucks, cue sticks, chipsets, and paddles, as they typically come included with the table. They'd usually come with the table. For storage, if your preferred table isn't foldable, make sure to get a table cover to protect the table from damage when not in use.

Darts

Darts is a competitive game that's enjoyed by everyone since it's easy to play and understand. If you want to add a dartboard in your game room, you have two options:

- **Electronic Dartboard**

It's also referred to as "soft tip" darts since this type usually uses darts with tips made from plastic, making it ideal for both beginners and advanced players. Similar to [GLD's Vperi 797 Electronic Dartboard](#), this type of dartboard typically employs electronic sensors to register your score when a dart hits the board. It also features an electronic scoring system that automatically keeps track of scores, eliminating the need for manual calculations and reducing scoring errors.

If you want to use such a dartboard, remember that it will be damaged by the darts over time. This is because the darts can hit the components of the board, such as the controls and displays.

- **Bristle Board**

This is a classic dartboard and is the one people think about when hearing about darts. Bristle boards use darts with steel tips, like [GLD's Elkadart Rainbow Tungsten Darts](#), especially during tournaments. This is because of the board's material.

Bristle boards are made from a durable and high-density material called “sisal” that has a unique “self-healing” ability. This means that the darts won’t damage the board when you pull them out because the fibers of the material will close back together.

Aside from the dartboard type, you also have to consider the darts you’ll use. Soft-tipped darts are usually more lightweight, having 14 to 20 grams of weight, while steel tips are usually 18 to 26 grams. Generally, the heavier the dart, the straighter its trajectory would be. This means you can get more accurate shots with heavier darts.

Depending on your experience, you can use either of the two. If you’re an experienced dart player, steel tips would be okay to use since they can be more dangerous, which beginners should avoid. Moreover, beginners haven’t practiced their precisions yet so using soft-tipped ones would be better.

Lastly, since dartboards are placed on the wall. Make sure that it will be properly hung so it will sit firmly on the wall. You wouldn’t want to have it knocked loose with your darts while playing.

Game Room Lighting

Once you've incorporated the game room furniture, don't forget to ensure proper lighting in the room. Lighting plays a crucial role in creating the right ambiance for a well-equipped game room. Moreover, good lighting can also reduce eye strain and fatigue when playing for long periods of time. You wouldn't be able to play properly and enjoy it with poor lighting!

Types of Lighting Fixtures Available

Here are the most common lighting fixtures you can use for your game room:

- **Ambient Lighting:** This provides a soft, even glow that can illuminate the entire room. It’s perfect for creating an inviting and relaxing atmosphere in the game room.

- **Accent Lighting:** This is a popular option where you highlight specific areas in the room. For example, if you want to highlight your game table, you can use accent lights. It’s also used to add depth and visual interest.
- **Task Lighting:** This is a popular choice for game rooms because it’s bright and focused, ideal for board games. You can use lamps and spotlights for this.
- **Smart Lighting:** This is a new type of lighting and is controlled by a smartphone app for customized lighting scenes and colors. You can even program it to change with the game's audio, making it perfect for playing video games.

Lighting Placement and Brightness

Ultimately, it would depend on your preferences and your room’s specifications. The lighting placement and brightness would depend on your preferences, game table’s placement, and your room's specifications. With these in mind, you can also use a combination of lights. As a rule of thumb, you should place lights 45-degree angle from the surface being illuminated.

Moreover, the brightness of the room can vary depending on the room size and ceiling height. Just make sure that the lights are enough without hurting your eyes.



Energy Efficiency and Cost Considerations

The lighting will surely cost you your energy bill. It's best to consider the energy efficiency of the light bulb or fixture you want to use in your game room. Consider whether you want to incorporate multiple types of lighting fixtures in your setup or focus on using just one or a few types to reduce costs.

You can experiment with various lighting techniques, such as placing lights specifically around the game tables, like [RAM Game Room's Billiards KD Blue Table Light](#). This way, you can avoid the need for excessive lighting throughout the entire room.

Make sure to consider these especially when you're trying to maintain a budget or limit with your bills.

Game Room Decor

There are many ways you can decorate your game room. However, as a standard practice to ensure an enjoyable game room experience, prioritize the following game room decors and factors:

- **Wall Art and Posters**

Your wall decor can reflect some of your favorite games or the games you have in the room. For example, if you love billiards, you can add a [pub sign billiards coat rack](#).

Aside from hanging up some of your favorite collectibles, you can also add wall art and posters on the wall. This adds to the overall creativity of the game room and creates a good realm of imagination inside.



- **Furniture and Seating Options**

Your game room should be comfortable to use. This means that aside from the game tables, you should also have furniture and seating options inside. You can add a table with stools or a swiveling gaming chair if you have a video game console setup. At the least, a couch or multiple bean bags that can fit your family and friends would be comfortable enough, especially if you're using the room for a long time.

- **Theme-Based Decorations**

You can follow a theme when decorating and designing your game room. The most common themes are usually retro, arcade-like, and robotic. This would greatly depend on your preferences and can be anything.

For example, if you love cars and retro, you can use decorations related to those themes. You can try adding [RAM Game Room's Pub Sign-Red Car with Mirror](#). Not only does it follow the theme, but it also serves as a mirror as well.



- **Storage Solutions For Game Accessories**

Lastly, you need to think about how you'd keep and tidy up the room. This means you have to have storage for your game accessories. You can use a separate cabinet as an overall storage option for all the accessories or you can use separate storage options, like boxes, for each game you have in the room.

Conclusion

Buying game tables and designing a game room for the first time can seem overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be. Remember these game table options you can add to your room:

- Pool
- Air Hockey
- Shuffleboard
- Foosball
- Poker
- Table Tennis
- Multi game
- Darts

You can choose any of these to add in your game room, depending on your preferences. Ultimately, if you have limited space, going for a multi game table would be ideal. Aside from the tables, you also need to consider the lighting and decoration of the room. Remember that everything should be set up with comfort in mind so you can enjoy playing even for long periods of time.

Check Game Table Genie for the best game table products and accessories. You can find a wide variety of tables, accessories, and even decorations that would be perfect for any game room!

