American Heritage Billiards Shuffleboard FAQs

What is shuffleboard?
Shuffleboard began as a popular coin-on-the-table tavern game, imported to America by British colonists. The popularity of the game blossomed in the 1950s, and shuffleboard manufacturers even began sponsoring national tournaments. As the popularity of the sport grew, there was a larger demand for home shuffleboard tables. These were designed to be smaller than the standard tournament tables. Currently, over 1 million shuffleboard tables are enjoyed by over 5 million people every year. Shuffleboard tables provide a surface for a wide variety of unique and interesting games, including Knock-Off, Crazy Eights, Horse Collar, Target, and Tap & Draw.

What is the standard shuffleboard table size?
This depends on how you define "standard." In the 16th century, shuffleboard (then called "shovel-board") tables were generally about 30-feet long. Over time, this length has decreased significantly as shuffleboard became more popular. Currently, the modern tournament standard length is 22-feet. Of course, this had to be changed for the home version. The standard home shuffleboard table is between 12 and 14 feet long, to suit the accommodations of the average home.

What is the maximum size table that I can fit in my home or business?
Most players will prefer to have at 3 feet on either end of the table. This allows for at least one player on each end to comfortably glide the groat or puck across the playfield.

How does my Shuffleboard table ship?
The shuffleboard table's legs and frame cradle will ship in separate cartons. The large crate will contain the shuffleboard play field, sometimes referred to as the butcher block. This is shipped as a complete piece and can weigh several hundred pounds. Larger tables will generally be moved on their side to reduce the chance of flexing and ensure that the polymer is kept in perfect condition.

What is involved for my shuffleboard installation?

The legs and frame cradle are shipped unassembled; however, assembly of these parts is generally simple. It is important to assemble the frame cradle by carefully following the directions provided by AHB. Once the cradle is assembled, it should set into its final room position and then leveled to the floor by shimming under the frame leg feet. Be sure to level the frame cradle prior to installing the play field. The main effort of installation involves the required manpower needed to lift the shuffleboard playing field. A 14 foot shuffleboard play field can weigh a few hundred pounds and can require 4 or more people to safely lift it correctly into the frame cradle.

What is a climate adjuster?
A: Climatic adjusters are used on shuffleboard tables to ensure a level playing surface and years of enjoyment on your game table. While the table frame cradle should be leveled by shimming under the leg feet, additional micro adjustments to the level of the playing field can be made if absolutely necessary by using climatic adjusters.

What happens if the table experiences drastic temperature changes?

As occurs with all types, shapes, and sizes of wood, extreme temperature changes can cause your playfield to expand and contract. In extreme situations, this can cause a table to bow or warp a bit. This can be avoided by keeping a somewhat consistent temperature. However if it occurs, you may use the climatic adjusters to help remedy the issue. Tables that use vertically staved joinery have less of a likelihood of having these issues with temperature changes.

What is the difference between vertically staved and stacked or butcher block play-fields?
A vertically staved play-field (Used on all AHB models) has one layer of wood, normally a hard solid maple; these are joined together side by side to create a thick solid surface. A Butcher block play- field uses multiple layers of wood stacked next to one another. Vertically staved units are found on higher-end tables and have a better resistance to warping over a very long time of use.

Why are some Shuffleboard tables much more expensive than others?
Surface finish styles, raw materials used in the frame cradle and play field and certainly the furniture design attributes are all factors that reflect the value and investment of a table. Additionally, many lower priced tables normally try to protect the playfield with multiple coats of a polyurethane lacquer. Higher quality models protect the playfield and provide a consistent play with a polymer surface. (Used on all AHB models).

The construction style of the Play-field will also affect pricing. Vertically staved play fields are more expensive than butcher block constructed play fields. They have a higher durability and are less likely to be subject to warping in extreme temperature changes.

What is proper shuffleboard maintenance and do I need to wax my shuffle board playfield?
The protective cover included with the purchase of all American Heritage Shuffleboards will help protect your game when it is not in use.

Please be sure to always keep the playfield covered lightly with shuffleboard sand to help protect the surface and to enable the puck to glide more smoothly during play.

You can periodically (a few times annually) clean the playfield surface with a silicone spray and then apply standard car wax to the surface (be sure to buff off all the excess car wax prior to reapplying the shuffleboard sand.) The wax process provides protection to the playfield surface and fills any small imperfections in the play field.

What is shuffleboard powder or sand?
In order for the shuffleboard "groat" or "puck" to slide smoothly across the playfield, shuffleboard tables require special shuffleboard "sand". This is not the type of sand that you find at the beach but a specially designed material made for use on shuffleboard tables. It can be referred to as Sand, Wax, Sawdust, Salt, Powder and Silicone. It is simply a tiny silicone or plastic balls that allow the pucks to glide as if on ball bearings across the playfield surface. This material also acts as a protectant, lessening the friction of the puck to the playfield surface.