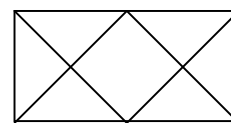




AMERICAN POOL TABLE CARE

1. Forget about brushing the right way, ironing and marking the 'D'. This is American pool. The cloth is 'speedcloth'. It has a high nylon content and no 'direction' to the fibres. The balls run fast in every direction.
2. A daily brush and vacuum will reduce wear, chalk dust is sharp and cuts cloth. Because speedcloth has no nap, it does not shed fibres like wool cloth. Therefore stains will not reduce with brushing. However, the cloth will not wear out as quickly and will not cut and nick. Using the correct colour chalk will obviously help to reduce marking.
3. Within a short time, new cloth may show white spots. These are impact marks from dropped balls or cue stabs, or even melt marks where spinning balls heat to a high temperature. The cloth is not worn out. Over time these marks will become less evident.
4. Regular use of a cloth cleaner will help with beer stains etc. Mist on the spray and wipe with a clean cloth. Sponging with water will generally only dilute and spread a stain.
5. American pool of all rule variants only requires marking 2 spots. One is the baulk spot, from behind which the cue ball is placed for breaking. The other is the foot spot, which marks the position of the front ball of the rack, not the 8 ball. Players will of course play their own rules. A head string line through the baulk spot is acceptable. An American playing area is exactly 2 x 1, imagine the table is a domino piece, the double One, that will locate the spots!
6. Periodic cleaning and polishing the balls is advisable for both visual and practical reasons. Use a specialist ball polish like Diamond or Aramith Polish, and consider investing in a ball polishing machine if you have a number of tables in one location.
7. Use the cue rack, cues lying on tables or leaning against walls look untidy and will warp. Check the tips are intact, removing damaged cues. Always roughen up a new cue tip with sandpaper to help it take chalk.
8. Inspect the canopy/lighting. Ensure all the bulbs are working, the light is cast effectively over the playing surface, and there is no evident damage that may detract from a player's enjoyment, or present any danger.



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