

Home Games

Games like pool, Ping-Pong, bumper pool, pinball and darts take up considerable space, so plan for them carefully. Light game rooms well with plenty of even, overhead fixtures. A dimmer switch is a good idea if you'll use the room for other purposes.

Game rooms are noisy places. Locate them away from bedrooms and offices. If your TV is in a game room try to create sections for different activities, each with its own lighting. Add half-height walls, for example, or furniture dividers such as sofas, bookcases or bars.

Ball games like indoor basketball need high ceilings.

Pool tables are 4 by 8 ft. or 4 1/2 by 9 ft. Leave at least 5 ft. clear around them to make your best shots. Slate pool tables are heavy - make sure your floor can support the weight. And you'll need wall space to hang the pool cues.

Ping-Pong tables are 5 by 9 ft and need at least 3 feet on either side, plus at least 5 feet at either end. Serious players expect far more than these minimums.

Dart boards must be located outside traffic patterns.