



Everything You Need to Host Your First Mahjong Night

A checklist for setting up your table, your space, and your players, whether you're playing casual house rules or the full official card.

The essentials

CAN'T PLAY WITHOUT

- ☐ **A mahjong tile set.** 152 tiles is standard; 160 is fine too, just a few extra blanks and jokers worth having. Not sure yet? Borrow one before you buy, it's a real investment.
- ☐ **Four racks with pushers**, one per player. Magnetic or pivoting both work. At least 17.5", and double check it's really a set of four, not one rack.
- ☐ **A table with room for the wall.** Square works best, but rectangle and round both work too, on a rectangle, angle the mat's corners to the table's sides.
- ☐ **Enough chairs**, one per player, at a height that lets everyone see over their rack comfortably.
- ☐ **Good lighting over the table.** A cordless lamp for the middle is a nice touch, just get one that's fast-charging and long-lasting.
- ☐ **This year's card**, if you're playing official NMJL scoring, or your group's own house rules written down somewhere, if you're playing casual.
- ☐ **A way to keep score.** A pad and pen works. The Mahj Report app does the math for you and keeps a season going across multiple nights.

Table setup

EASY TO FORGET

The mahjong table is fully spoken for once the wall goes up. There's no room left on it for anything else.

- ☐ **Two little side tables per mahjong table**, one shared between each pair of neighboring seats.
- ☐ **Coasters** on those side tables, if the surface would take a ring from a cold glass.
- ☐ **Napkins or small plates** at each side table, for snacks people want within reach.

Setting the mood

OPTIONAL, WORTH IT

- ☐ **A mahjong playlist on Spotify.** Search "mahjong" for ready made playlists.
- ☐ **Snacks and drinks**, easy to grab and set down, not messy, there's little time between turns.
- ☐ **A small prize for the night's winner.** Tile shufflers are a fun, easy first one. More ideas at themahjreport.com/mahjong-night-prizes.html.

Before your first shuffle

QUICK CHECKS

- ☐ Line up someone who knows how to play. A teacher is a nice touch but not necessary, just someone patient with the basics.
- ☐ Confirm you have enough players for at least one full table (four), or a plan for who sits where if you have more.
- ☐ Decide up front whether you're playing casual or official rules, and make sure everyone at the table knows which.
- ☐ If anyone's new, a quick walk through of your house rules before the first hand saves confusion later.

Starting from nothing?

A shopping list lives at themahjreport.com/mahjong-night-checklist.html: what to look for in a tile set, racks, side tables, and coasters, plus what to search for on Amazon.

Tile set, starting out

Under \$200 for a real starter set.

Tile set, built to keep

\$400+: Mahjong Loft, Mahjong Row & Co.

Racks & pushers

At least 17.5", check it's really a set of four.

Side tables & coasters

Small and foldable, two per table.