

You Just Bought Your New Pipe, Now What?

What you need:

- Pipe
- Pipe Tamper or tool
- Matches or lighter with a flame (not a torch style lighter)
- Pipe Cleaners
- Pipe tobacco
- A little patience

Loading the bowl:

1. Begin by adding tobacco to your pipe bowl, one pinch at a time. Take care not to overload the bowl.
2. Gently pack the tobacco so that the tension of the “pack” is matched to the pressure of the palm of your hand between the thumb and the wrist. (with your left palm open and facing you press your right index finger just under the thumb before the start of the wrist).

Now fire it up:

1. While holding the pipe bit to your mouth, light the tobacco and gently pull in the smoke taking care not to inhale the smoke.
2. You may want to move the flame in a circular pattern over the tobacco to start an even burn.
3. Take a few slow puffs to get the tobacco burning. You may have to re-light a few times to get the bowl really going.
4. At this point you should be able to take several puffs at a time without adding more flame. This takes a bit of practice.
5. Enjoy the tobacco to the end of the bowl.

Emptying your pipe

1. When your tobacco has been fully smoked and your pipe has cooled off you may now empty your bowl.
2. You may lightly tamp the bowl on the heel of your hand but never tamp the bowl on a hard surface. Doing so, may result in damage to your pipe.
3. If the tobacco is difficult to remove you may use a pipe tool with a scoop attachment to remove the remaining tobacco.
4. Gently scoop out the tobacco without scraping the sides of the bowl. In time, a “cake” will form on the interior wall of the bowl helping future smokes burn more effectively.
5. You will eventually want to retain about an eighth of an inch of cake inside your pipe.
6. If your cake builds to more than an eighth of an inch then it may be time to have a Club Humidor Tune-up.

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Caring for your pipe

1. Always allow your pipe to cool off in between bowls. This is a good reason to have more than one pipe.
2. Never separate your stem from the bowl unless the pipe is cooled off. This prevent the tenon from stretching.
3. Never use anything but a proper pipe tool to clean your pipe in between smokes. A blunt nose reamer may be used for excessive cake removal. Never use a pointed object such as a pocket knife. Doing so, will likely result in boring a hole in the heel of the bowl.
4. Never use any household cleaners to clean you pipe. Pipe Spirits, Briar Wipe and other appropriate cleaners may be used and can be found at your favorite Club Humidor location.
5. Use pipe cleaners to swab or scrub the pipe stem and pipe shank in between uses.
6. For deep cleaning, be sure to inquire about a Club Humidor Pipe Tune-up.

Pipe FAQ

1. Why won't my bowl stay lit?

This could be the result of several reasons. It takes some practice by new pipe smoker to learn to light the pipe correctly and keep it lit. It could also be a result of simply being a new pipe or possibly the tobacco chosen. Most pipe smokers will get the hnag of things in time. Be patient and relax.

2. Why is my pipe is starting to have an uneven cake on the inside of the bowl?

Typically, you'll want to maintain and even amount of cake throughout the walls of the bowl. Be sure to smoke all tobacco to the end and when removing the tobacco apply even pressure when scraping the walls.

3. Why is my pipe stem discoloring?

This is a natural oxidation formed on vulcanite stems. It can easily be buffed out and polished up by a Club Humidor pipe expert.

4. Should I choose a briar or meerschaum pipe?

The choice is yours! But take note that meerschaum pipes are very delicate and require a bit more care than briar pipes.

5. What tobacco should I choose?

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Begin by selecting tobaccos that satisfy your sense of smell. Everyone prefers something different and there are no right or wrong choices. Your sense of taste and appeasement to those around you will soon direct you to blends that you prefer over others. Experience will eventually narrow down your preferences over the extensive choices available.

6. What if my pipe becomes damaged?

The only available warranty for a pipe extends to a burn-out in the bowl. This is usually indicated by the start of a hole boring through the walls of the bowl. Only the manufacturer can determine if a burn-out has occurred. Club Humidor does not provide warranties on pipes. Meerschaum pipes are never warrantied due to the delicate nature of the meerschaum.

7. What if my pipe breaks?

Depending on the break itself, sometimes broken pipes can be repaired. Stem replacements and shank bands are the most common repairs to be made. A Club Humidor pipe expert can determine if your pipe is a candidate for repair. In some cases it may be better to replace the pipe instead of repairing the pipe. A repair can take up to 6 weeks.

8. What tools should I use?

Club Humidor stocks several types of pipe tools that are suited for your pipe.

9. Why does my pipe taste bitter?

This usually indicates that it is time to have your pipe professionally cleaned. Club Humidor will be happy to assist you with this process.

*Please feel free to contact any Club Humidor representative if you have questions or concerns regarding your new pipe.