

## A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO PIPE SMOKING

### Basic Supplies

This information is for a new pipe smoker. We don't want you to go broke trying something you may not like. So, we've provided a list of the minimum items you need to start. Here's what you'll need:



**A pipe** – We recommend starting with a corn cob pipe. We know it sounds corny (no pun intended) but they're cheap and if you find you don't like smoking a pipe, just toss it and you won't be out a lot of money. If you just can't bring yourself to try a corn cob pipe, then ask one of our staff to show you some of our less expensive briar pipes or estate pipes (used pipes that have been cleaned and sanitized). Estate pipes are already broken in and usually smoke wonderfully right away.

**Pipe tamper/tool** – Although not necessary, this is very helpful in packing the tobacco.

**Pipe cleaners and pipe “sweetener”** – Obviously for cleaning your pipe when you're finished (NOT right after you're finished however – see below). They're cheap and the sweetener keeps your pipe fresh and smokable.

**Wooden Matches or a soft flame pipe lighter** – We carry a variety of soft flame pipe lighters for sale.

**Tobacco** – This is where a knowledgeable tobacconist is HIGHLY useful. Tobacco comes in a variety of flavors and strengths. We recommend starting out with a blended flavor, which we call aromatic. You can get an ounce (that's more tobacco than you realize) for under \$5.

### How to Smoke a Pipe

Smoking a pipe is a leisurely activity. Set aside at least twenty minutes and don't get in a hurry or rush. That's one of the reasons pipe smoking is so enjoyable. It lets you take some time to slow down. Grab your pipe, tobacco, and gear recommended above. Take a seat in our lounge or some other place where you can relax. Now you're ready to begin.

**Fill the bowl of your pipe** - This step is the most difficult to master but it affects the rest of your smoke. Fill the bowl loosely with tobacco and press it lightly down with the tamper. The bowl should now be filled halfway from the bottom. Fill the bowl again to the top and compress a bit more, packing more firmly. Now your bowl is about 3/4 full. Now top off the bowl with more tobacco and press down. There should be a slight space between the top of the bowl and the tobacco. The most important, just don't pack your pipe too tight.

**Put the pipe to your mouth and take a test draw** - If air doesn't flow freely through the tobacco, it's too tight. If that's the case, remove and try again. If your test draw is fine, you're ready to light.

**When lighting your pipe, use a wooden match or pipe lighter** - Pipe lighters are made specifically for tobacco pipes and don't alter the taste of the tobacco. If using a match, strike it and let it burn for a few seconds to get the sulphur off the tip. Then, as you take gentle draws on the pipe, move the match in a circular movement over the surface of the tobacco. Do this until the tobacco is evenly lit. Once it's lit, you're still not quite there. This is simply the "false light." Let it go out, and then relight the same way. Once it's evenly lit, this is the "true light" and you're ready to smoke.

**Take it easy when smoking your pipe** - Slow and steady, this is a marathon, not a 50-yard dash. If you puff too quickly, you'll get what's known as "tongue bite"— a burning sensation on your tongue. You also stand the risk of burning through you pipe. Your pipe may go out 2 or 3 times during your smoke, but that's OK. Enjoy the flavor of the tobacco. Like new boots, a new briar pipe takes some time to break in. It may smoke a little hot to begin with, so be patient and go slow. Tongue bite is very common and is nearly always a sign that you're smoking too fast and/or your packing is too loose.