

How to Select a Basketball System for Your Home

Choosing between a fixed height and an adjustable pole system.

Make this decision based upon the ages of the players and the level of basketball you want to play. The official high school and college competition goal height is 10', but a new basketball system fixed at 10' will be a big disappointment to youngsters learning to get the ball to the goal. Most young players and teens will also want to lower the goal below 10' for slam dunk action. A 10' fixed-height goal is appropriate if you want to play only at the official competitive height.

The backboard material affects the quality of play.

Glass is used for all competition backboards in high school, college and pro arenas because a glass backboard gives the best ball rebound. A home court with a Bison TruGlass backboard is the best training ground for competitive-level skills. Clear acrylic backboards, which give the look of glass, and backboards of graphite or fiberglass all have aesthetic, durability or price benefits – but none of these compare to the playability of glass.

Look for durability to ensure years of family fun.

Beware of basketball equipment makers that litter neighborhoods with rusty, tilting poles, backboards that age too soon and sagging goals. Compare features to get a clear picture of what you can expect your system to look like in the years ahead. Bison's warranties will give you confidence that your equipment will stand up to years of use.

Safety is not an option. Generous setbacks and pole padding are essential.

The distance between the pole and the backboard ranges from 22" to 60" on Bison pole systems. There's no one blowing a whistle under the boards in most driveway games. If you expect aggressive play, you should consider a greater safe play area. Pole and backboard padding also add a measure of safety when there is rough-housing on your court. In the interest of your kids' safety, Bison makes SafeStuff pole padding standard on every residential system.

Consider where the system will be installed.

Will your system be installed on a driveway in the front of the house? On the side, or out of sight in the back yard? Street appeal and coordination with your home and landscape should influence your purchasing decision in more visible areas. Choose a system that complements not overwhelms your home and landscape.

Plan for your family's future.

Select a system that will keep up with changing skill levels. If you want your youngsters to play with you now and on a competitive team in the future, you should carefully consider pole and backboard rigidity. Always select equipment warranted to stand up to active play. And look for equipment that won't detract from the value of your landscape.



Understand What You are Buying

Understanding what you're buying is key to getting the right basketball system for your home. Bison uses the following terms to help point out key features and differences on our systems.

Safe Play Area As the name implies, the greater the safe play area the greater the player safety during aggressive play. Safe play area is the distance from the face of the backboard to the pole. On a competition indoor court the distance from the face of the backboard to the out-of-bounds line is 48". Safe play area is particularly important on systems that are regularly lowered for slam dunk action.

SafeStuff™ Only Bison includes a pole pad with every residential system. We call this feature SafeStuff because we don't think player safety should be optional.



DuraSkin® In the late 1980's Bison developed a dense molded bolt-on backboard padding system that was durable for indoor or outdoor use. Often imitated, but never equalled, DuraSkin is available as an option on any rectangular backboard. Backboard padding is required at all levels of official college and high school play to protect players from backboard contact.

Direct Goal Mounting Backboard durability is virtually a non-issue on a Bison system due to the goal mounting system that effectively mounts the goal through the backboard and directly into the steel pole structure. There is almost no stress put on the backboard even during slam dunk action.

Flex Goal Bison flex goals are designed with many of the same durability features of our competition breakaway goals but require less pressure to release. This improves player safety and rim life. Flex goals will hold up in any climate.

Direct Bury This method of installing a pole system inserts the pole into the ground between 30" and 48" depending upon the size of the system. Concrete is placed around and in the bottom of the pole making the installation permanent. Ground sleeves are available for 4" direct bury poles to make removal possible (see page 9).

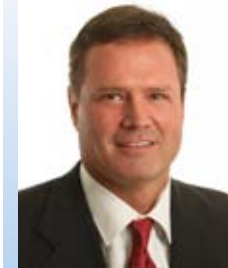
Pedestal Base Mounting Many Bison systems have a mounting plate on the bottom of the pole that allows them to be bolted onto (and unbolted from) a poured foundation with protruding threaded bolts. This lets you easily take your investment with you when you move.

Powder Coated Finish Powder coating provides a finish that is far superior to a finish from a wet spray paint system. In addition to beauty and durability, powder coating is environmentally and employee friendly, without the hazardous waste and toxic fumes common with the wet paint process.

TruGlass™ Bison pioneered the use of actual tempered glass on residential basketball systems over 25 years ago. Over the years an ever increasing number of homeowners have recognized the superior rebound of TruGlass. Today Bison sells only TruGlass on most systems.

Smoked Backboard While clear glass or acrylic matches the look of gymnasium backboards, many homeowners like the curb appeal of tinted backboards that reduce glare and provide a contemporary look. Bison offers smoked backboards on most systems.

Acrylic Backboard While tempered glass is the norm in virtually every gymnasium in the country, home backboards have traditionally been constructed of clear acrylic, a plastic material, due to cost and other considerations. Acrylic provides the look but not the rebound of tempered glass.



"No matter where I find myself coaching, playing or watching basketball, I expect quality equipment. For my backyard court, I chose Bison so no matter what the level of play, I know the game is authentic. I especially value the fact that every Bison residential system comes standard with SafeStuff pole safety padding."

Bill Self, Head Men's Basketball Coach
University of Kansas Jayhawks