

# Steaming feather shuttles

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To enhance the durability of feather shuttles, we really recommend to steam the shuttles before using them in a match.

Steaming/humidifying is one of the fastest and effective way of preparing shuttlecock for tournament. It's recommended that this process is performed 2-3 days before being used and stored in a cool and humid area. There are multiple ways to create the steam needed for humidifying the shuttlecock. One way is to boil a water and use the steam or place them in a moisty room, for example when you take a shower.

Some player live in dry areas and the weather conditions indirectly lead to the drying out of shuttlecock feathers. When hit, these dry shuttlecocks feathers lack resilience and can easily break. Steaming shuttlecocks involves using steam to directly increase the moistness of the feathers and this resolves the dryness problem. Shuttlecocks that have been steamed are softer and split or break less easily. In particular, in dry places or in low temperatures in winter, the effects of steaming will be more obvious. Below we will explain how to steam shuttlecocks without a steamer:

## Steaming steps:

1. Before steaming, first identify which end of the tube is the exit mouth and which the entry mouth. The end at which the shuttlecock heads can be seen is the exit mouth.



Front End



Back End

2. Place the shuttlecocks that are needed for play in the tube.

3. Prepare a kettle full of just-boiled water or use a thermos flask/cup and fill it with hot water. Open the front and back ends of the tube and place the entry mouth above the kettle or thermos flask/cup and let the steam rise into the tube (steam for about 30 secs.)



Let steam enter through the entry mouth and leave through the exit mouth.



Put the lids on and leave in place for 12 hours and then they can be used.

4. When steam begins to rise out of the exit mouth, move the tube away horizontally and then quickly put the lid back on the exit mouth and entry mouth to prevent the steam escaping.
5. Finally, leave with head up and feathers down for 12 hours, after which time the job is done.

**Points for attention:**

- Don't steam the shuttlecocks for too long to prevent the cork being damaged. Seal the tube as soon as you see steam rising from the exit mouth (it is suggested steaming time should not exceed one minute)
- In moist seasons don't steam shuttlecocks to avoid making them too heavy and affecting their flight.
- Use the shuttlecocks that have been steamed as quickly as you can. In other words, only steam the number you need for the next day's play.
- The kettle/thermos flask or cup used for steaming shuttlecocks should not be used to boil or hold water for drinking or use in food afterwards

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