

Thin Ice

Complexity: Simple

Time: Fast

Players: 2-4

Equipment: 3 Rainbow Stashes

+ Nothing

Introduction: The first time you see Icehouse pieces, you want to build something with them. This quick party game pits your balancing skills against that of others, allowing you to build piles up from three base pieces, but not allowing any easy stacking. The last pile standing wins.

Players: 2 to 4 is an ideal number of players, but more can play as long as the number of stashes used is appropriately increased.

Equipment: 3 Rainbow Stashes, though at least 1 Rainbow Stash per person is ideal. Everyone should play on the same surface, and one with high friction is the most fun.

Setup: Place all pyramids in a communal area where all players have access to them.

Who Starts: Choose a player to go first.

How to Play: On your turn, “call” one or two icehouse piece sizes. For example, you might call a large piece; or two mediums; or a small and a large. Color does not matter. All players must pick up pieces of the called size and add them to the stack in front of them. When everyone has added those pieces and is holding none, or is out, the turn passes to the left. It doesn’t matter how long a player takes, and waiting confers no advantage. Players may reorganize their piles any way they want, as long as they follow the rules below.

Elimination: You are eliminated from the current round if at any time you meet any of the following conditions

- If, at any time, you have four pieces touching the table.
- If, at any time, you have three pieces air-borne (not touching the table or other pieces in the pile).
- If, at any time, you have two pieces nested such that the point of one of your pieces clearly touching the inside point of another piece.

Scoring: The first player out receives one point, the second two points, and so on. If two or more players crash on the same turn, whoever had a turn more recently gets the lower score.

Goal: Your group may choose to play a series of single games without keeping a running score; or you may play a match, keeping a running score and playing to a predetermined total.