



## Hockey Puck Fun Facts

- The early pucks included balls, stones and lumps of coal.
- Mothers sometimes put hot baked potatoes into their children's skates so that the skates would be cozy and warm when the children reached the rink or pond. The potatoes were then used as pucks for hockey games.
- Although rubber was invented in 1839, it wasn't until the late 1880s that someone thought of making rubber pucks.
- The word “puck” was first recorded in the February 7th, 1876 edition of the Montreal Gazette, so the NHL regards this date as the hockey puck’s birthday.
- Indoor rink owners would cut rubber balls into thirds, keeping the middle section as the new puck. This basic design was the standard by 1885.
- “Smart pucks” were released by Fox television in 1996. Also known as the “FoxTrax,” these high-tech gizmos sported a hidden microchip that transmitted an infrared signal to a series of computers which superimposed blue and red halos around the puck on television screens during play, making them easier to see.



Fans were outraged and players argued that the FoxTrax weren't moving properly. Furthermore, each one cost \$50,000—a hefty price for something built to get slapped around by a team of hockey players. Ultimately, the network retired these ill-fated contraptions for good the following year.

[See a FoxTrax Smart Puck in action](#)