



Suncoast Sails

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Constructing a Golf Course Maintenance Building

All too often when building a golf course the maintenance building is put on the bottom of the priority list. This misconception has plagued golf course superintendents for years. The maintenance building is the nucleus of the maintenance operation and should be planned with this in mind. Not only does the complex serve as a place to store equipment but also houses equipment for maintenance and repairs, headquarters for the crew, fertilizer storage, chemical storage, topsoil storage, and administrative offices for the superintendent, his assistant and secretary. A facility that is constructed without fulfilling these needs is totally inadequate.

When locating the maintenance facility the following facts should be addressed:

- 1) The complex should be centrally located on the golf course out of "in play" areas.
- 2) It should have accommodations for large truck traffic.
- 3) It should be located in an area that is relatively flat and well drained for ease of equipment maneuverability.
- 4) It should be easily connected to utilities.
- 5) Plenty of room should be allowed for employee parking.
- 6) The entire complex should be well screened from the golfer's view.

When designing the building several things should be considered. The type of construction materials should be durable and easily maintained. The exterior design should complement the surrounding buildings when feasible. The number of windows should be limited for security reasons. Skylights should be used wherever possible for natural lighting. Plenty of electrical outlets should be used throughout the building. Fuel pumps should be located in a convenient location away from normal traffic flow.

The equipment maintenance area should be separate from equipment storage and relatively close to the administrative offices. It should be insulated and equipped with heat and air conditioner. It should also contain plenty of bench space, 1/2 ton overhead hoist, hydraulic lift, grinder, drill press, parts washer, air compressor, reel and bed-knife grinder, welding bay, area for spray painting, portable work bench, sufficient lighting, and a desk, file cabinet, etc., for the mechanic. Also included should be an inventory room with adequate storage area for equipment parts inventory, golf course supplies, irrigation parts, etc. This area should be accessible to authorized personnel only.

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A personnel area should be provided with restroom and shower facilities, lockers, lunch table, refrigerator, vending machines, microwave oven, etc. This area should be heated and air conditioned and located relatively close to the administrative offices.

The fertilizer and chemical storage areas should be located in an area convenient to large trucks. It should be constructed of corrosive resistant materials and accessible to authorized personnel only. Ideally the two should be separate rooms.

The topsoil storage area should consist of a concrete floor with side walls that are at least 6 ft. high and built strong enough to contain the soil being stored. Enclosing the structure is recommended to keep the soil dry and free of contaminants.

The size of the maintenance facility varies with the type and size of the golf course. Some general recommendations for a typical 18-hole golf course are listed below. The figures should be considered minimum.

Equipment Storage	6,000 sq. ft.
Equipment Repair	1,300 sq. ft.
Inventory Room	250 sq. ft.
Fertilizer Storage	450 sq. ft.
Chemical Storage	250 sq. ft.
Administrative Offices	300 sq. ft.
Employee Lunch Room	350 sq. ft.
Restrooms 7 Showers	100 sq. ft.
Total Floor Space	9,000 sq. ft.
Topsoil Storage	1,000 sq. ft.

A wash rack of 1,000 square feet with proper drainage is essential for keeping the equipment clean. The area around the building should be paved and a security fence installed around the entire facility.

One must realize that a poorly designed maintenance complex is conducive to inadequate golf course conditions. A golf course wishing to upgrade course conditions and maintenance programs should take a long, hard look at the support facility from which its personnel is operating. If found deficient, proper steps should be taken to obtain an adequate maintenance facility. ■