



Greens of natural hair withstand all weather. Squeegeeing after rain is recommended as a safety factor. Photos were taken at Dwarf GC, Lincolnwood, Ill.

A Firm Bond for the Felt

Installation and Maintenance of Miniature Course Greens



It's safe to use a roller after carpet is put down. This insures a firm bond. Texture of all-hair felt simulates natural greens (foreground).

With the cooperation of the Ozite Corp. of Chicago, a large manufacturer of golf course felts, *Golfdom* presents a series of questions and answers on the installation and maintenance of artificial green for miniature courses. This information is a composite of installation experiences of the Ozite firm and a questionnaire that it sent out to several clients. Due to the steady growth of miniatures, built in conjunction with ranges and Par 3s in the last year or so, numerous inquiries have been received as to how they should be constructed and maintained. Editor

What type of base is best for laying putting course greens?

A concrete base generally has proved best. It provides a smoother surface, stays level, holds up longer under varying weather and traffic conditions. Asphalt often melts too easily and clay and gravel have proved unsatisfactory.

What kind of cement or adhesive can be used?

Any good waterproof adhesive is satisfactory. There are several adhesives on the market that are designed especially for laying golf course felt.



To repair a rip . . . ruptured fabric is carefully lifted and folded back. Dirt is blown out and adhesive applied. Fabric is then pressed down with the fingers so fibers are pulled together. Final pressure can be applied with a hammer. At right, corners and areas around obstructions should be pressed firmly with the hands so that firm bond is made.



What types of putting felt are available?

Two major types of felt have proved successful for putting surfaces. One is a 100 per cent natural animal hair to withstand weather, wear and tear. The other is a combination of animal hair and synthetic fiber solution — dyed green. Ozite makes both types. "Tru-Green," a blend of natural hair and solution dyed synthetic fiber, is the official golf course felt approved by the Professional Putters Association and is the most widely used putting surface.

How should adhesive be applied?

Surfaces should be clean and free of grease, oil, dust, old adhesive, and bits of carpeting. Generally, surfaces should be "sunshine dry". Apply the adhesive according to manufacturer's specific instructions but, as a rule, use a regular serrated trowel with notches at least 1/16 inch deep to assure proper "ridges" for good bonding. Also be sure that adhesive is spread evenly.

Any preparation of the carpet needed?

Natural animal hair greens do not need pre-shrinking and are ready to lay "as is". The carpet should be pre-cut to exact size for each hole and then re-rolled to keep it clean while adhesive is being applied. Do not cut out the hole cup until the laying of the carpet is complete. A chalk mark showing where the carpet begins at the tee aids in applying adhesive to only the portion of the hole covered by carpeting.

When should carpet be laid?

Immediately after adhesive is applied. The best bonding time is from 5 to 15 minutes after adhesive is down. A good test is to check a corner of the carpet to see that at least 75 percent of the adhesive has transferred to the carpet. Proper adhesive cannot be too wet, but it can get too dry, causing poor bonding.

Does temperature or weather affect the time of felt installation?

Yes, to some degree. The weather should be relatively dry, preferably with plenty of sunshine. Several operators who have successfully applied felt carpets both at 40 degree and 90 degrees, report that the felt and adhesive stick together better when applied at higher temperatures. However, if the temperature is above 75, adhesive will set faster. Then, only 1/3 to 1/2 of a hole should be spread before applying the carpeting.

Can you use a roller on the newly laid green?

Yes! This method of assuring a firm bond is recommended. It is vital that every part of the carpet is pressed firmly into the adhesive, especially the edges and around the cup. Where a heavy roller can-

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can be effectively supplied to plants for periods of several months by this means in spite of conditions which would normally leach soluble minerals. The cost of providing for slow-release fertilizers in this fashion is high and the technique appears destined to remain of academic interest as far as turfgrass is concerned until lower cost exchange resins are developed.

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not be used, use a tamper or walk back and forth several times.

Can new felt be laid over the old?

No! The old felt should be removed by scraping or with a blow torch to heat the adhesive so that the old carpet will "peel" back. A wire brush is used to complete the job. Weather during the closed season will remove much of the old adhesive and bits of carpeting.

Should the felt carpet be covered during bad weather?

Not if good material is used. All-hair felt combinations naturally withstand rain, snow, ice or extreme heat and will not mildew or rot.

What is the average useful life of putting course felt?

Many operators prefer to change greens every year. They find that after a year's heavy service, wear spots and uneven surfaces begin to appear. The cup area, for example, is seldom stepped on. A rise or slope around the cup results.

What special cleaning is needed?

None. A simple broom or brush removes most surface dirt, mud, etc. Waterproof tar or similar spots are left to wear off with the flow of traffic.

After a heavy rain, how long must you wait before felt greens are playable?

Play can start almost immediately on a good quality felt after fairways and greens are squeegeed. Actually, squeegeeing is a safety factor since wet felt can be slippery.

How do you patch a bad break or hole caused by club damage or spike rips?

Avoid patching where possible, especially in tread-worn areas where it is difficult to match felt thickness. Fold back the ruptured piece, blow out the dust and dirt, then apply cement as required. Return flap and press down with your fingers around the edges, tucking in the edges and pulling surface fibers together to camouflage the tear.