

Repairing Divots on the Fairway

Play Your Shot

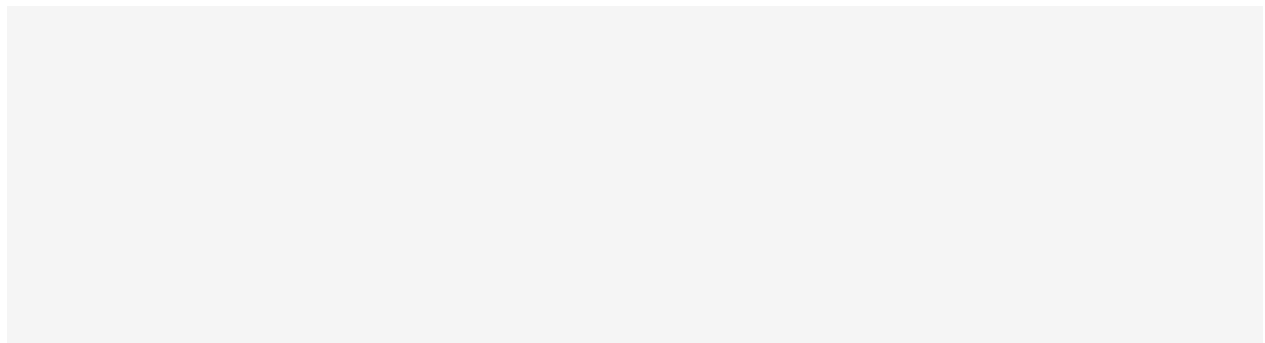


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Most good swings on well-struck iron shots produce a [divot](#) in the [fairway](#). The word "divot" actually refers to two different things: the top layer of turf that is sliced off and sent flying as your iron enters the ground; and the resulting scar, or patch of bare earth, that is left in the fairway.

If you look closely, in the photo above, just to the left and forward of the golfer you can see part of the divot flying away.

Repairing divots is an important duty of golfers who create them. According to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, a repaired divot can speed up the healing process (meaning: the grass will cover over the scar in the fairway) by a couple weeks, as opposed to an unrepaired divot.



Identify Your Divot



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Yep, that's a divot all right. The golfer's iron has sliced off the top layer of turf grass, exposing the sod underneath. (This happens because irons are designed to strike the ball on a descending path, meaning that they continue downward and into the ground after making contact with the ball.)

The Appropriate Method To Repair a Divot



Now that you've taken a divot, what's your correct course of action? There are two ways of repairing, or "fixing," divots. One is to fill the divot with sand or a sand-and-seed mixture; the other is to retrieve the turf grass/sod patch that was sliced off and put it back in place.

How do you know which is the proper course of action where you are playing? Check the [golf cart](#). If the course wants you to use sand, they'll provide it for you. The sand (or a mixture of sand and seed) will be in a carafe that sits in what looks like a large cup holder. The cup holder is usually attached to the frame that holds up the roof of the cart.

If you see this container of sand on the cart, the golf course is telling you to use sand. The Bow Island Golf Carts have sand bottles provided, so please use them.

When Using Sand or Sand/Seed Mix, Pour Into Divot



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Take the container of sand and simply pour the sand, or sand/seed mix, into the divot. Pour enough to fill the divot.

Smooth Over Sand to Level Out Divot



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Once you've filled the divot, use your foot to smooth over and tamp down the sand. And you're done! Such a simple thing to do, yet it helps the golf course heal.