

# Ball Marks and Divots

During the course of your rounds of golf at The Bridges Golf Club, do you ever notice unfilled divots in the fairways or un-repaired ball marks blocking your line to the cup? One of the biggest problems facing the golf industry today is golfers not taking the small amount of time to fill their divots and repair their ball marks. It is a simple process that can be completed in a few seconds while other players are hitting their shots, and greatly adds to the aesthetics and health of the golf course.

When repairing a divot in the fairway or the tee, the proper technique is to pour a healthy amount of the mixture into the scar that has been made, and then use your foot to TAMP the sand over. This provides a moist, level growing field for the new grass that is produced from the root system of the turf. Don't worry about that divot that is lying in the fairway, it will either blow away naturally, or be picked up by a fairway mower the next morning.

When it comes to ball marks, there are several things that can be done to help alleviate the problem of brown spots and bumps on greens. First, when you arrive to the putting surface, go to your ball mark first and repair it before proceeding to mark your ball. Also, if time allows, repair other ball marks as your playing partners putt or you wait for the tee to clear. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask any golf professional or maintenance staff to take the few seconds to show you.

Although there are no set rules for divot repair programs, the greatest hope of all remains with the golfer himself. If every golfer would repair his/her own ball marks and replace his/her own divots, the nation's golf courses would be greatly improved and noticeably less divots and ball marks would exist. Proper etiquette calls for this, but too few players make the extra effort to ensure the beauty and health of our golf course is maintained. If golfers would limit their practice swings to off-tee areas only, or remember to never take a divot with a practice swing, this would further help the cause. If golfers remembered to take a bottle of sand and seed mixture with them every time they left their cart, there would be no excuse for not repairing divots that were made throughout the course of the round.

A fresh ball mark repaired by a player takes only FIVE SECONDS.

A freshly repaired ball mark will completely heal in TWENTY FOUR HOURS.

A fresh ball mark left unrepaired for only one hour requires FIFTEEN DAYS TIME Before the ugly scar has satisfactorily healed.

**PLEASE REPAIR ALL BALL MARKS AND DIVOTS!**