

Expensive or Cheap Golf Balls. Which Are Best For Your Game?



Have you heard this before “the golf ball is the only piece of equipment in your bag that you use on every shot.”? So should you give more thought to using the best ball for your game than any other piece of equipment? Of course! But, low and behold, most golfers don’t give it a second thought. Oh, everyone wants to run out and demo that new driver that just hit the market and promises to add 10 yards to your drives. But, how often have you heard of anyone demoing a variety of balls to see which will most likely really help their game, immediately? There’s

no way a golfer can try every golf ball on the market, so we'll take a look at the main ball categories and see if you should try them out.

The Tour Ball

The first, and most expensive, is the professional, or "tour" ball. There are several "professional" balls on the market, all made by different companies. But the most popular are the Callaway Tour iX, the Titleist Pro V-1 and Pro V-1x, the Bridgestone B330, the TaylorMade TP Red and Black, and the Nike One Black and platinum models.

These balls will set you back \$50, give or take, per dozen. And guess what, don't expect your scores to be any better, regardless of the price.

To be successful with these balls, you need to have a swing speed of 100 miles per hour, plus, with your driver. If you don't have that, these balls will be virtually useless for you.

Granted, tour balls do have a soft-feeling urethane or elastomer cover that will enable them to stop on a dime, but you won't see any additional distance with your driver, or even your irons.

High-End Amateur Balls

Put down your ego and let's drop down a notch to the high-end amateur balls like the Bridgestone B330RX (tour-quality built for lower swing speeds), and the Titleist NXT and NXT Tour. And there's also the Callaway HX Hot ball. The way this whole category got started, was about five years ago golfers discovered that the Precept MC Lady ball (for women) was traveling miles further, and was ridiculously cheaper than the Tour balls. So to make the male golfers happy, Precept changed the name to the Scottish-sounding "Laddie". That was all great until they tried to improve it later with the Laddie X. It traveled farther, but was as hard as a rock around the greens. So much for the Precept.

If your swing speed is in the 85 to 95 miles per hour range, these high-end amateur balls are for you, and they will only cost you anywhere from \$25 to \$40 a dozen.

Bargain Balls

This last type of ball is the one that experienced players avoid like the plague. These are the garden-variety that you see at the sporting goods store. They are the Dunlops, Top-Flites and Pinnacles of the world. These balls can go for a price as low as \$9.99 for a 15-ball pack. If you are a beginner, these are great because you can knock three or four dozen in the water hazard and still live to buy more. Anyone with any semblance of a golf game will tell you these balls are just rocks, painted white.

Now, Experiment

So, now, go out and test. Buy yourself a dozen balls, but be sure that each sleeve of three has a different type of ball. Then go hit 'em. You'll soon be able to see the differences. Some will feel better, some will go further, but chances are none of them will do what they say on the box. And, just remember, at some point during the season, you'll be dissatisfied and try another brand. But, hey that's OK. That's half the fun of the game.

About the Author



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