

Will Expensive Golf Shoes Help You Play Better?



There are tons of golf shoes on the market and trying to figure out which ones are best for you will drive you nuts, especially if you're just getting started in the sport. Here are a few things to look at when you're in the store.

Price – Golf shoes can cost anywhere from around \$35 to \$300 and even more. But you know what they say, “you get what you pay for”. Today, golf shoes range from synthetic leather to the real thing, the finest calfskin. Of course, the expensive shoes will last a lot longer, be more comfortable, and, believe it or not, help you play better golf.

How often do you play – This is probably the most important factor when trying to decide how much to spend on a pair of golf shoes. If you only play a couple of times a year, you probably don't want, or need, to spend \$300 for a pair of shoes. But if you really want to look good, regardless of how stellar your game is, then go for the \$300 shoes. At least you'll feel good on those rare days that you amble out to the course.

Fit – You need to have a good fit, or you'll regret it during the middle of your next round. The last that the shoe is built on has a lot to do with how the shoe fits. For example, FootJoy uses 20 different lasts for all of their shoes. And you really don't want to buy your shoes from the Internet because how are you going to try them on for fit?

Waterproof Warranty – You can get “water-resistant” golf shoes, which means there is no waterproof warranty at all. Or you can get shoes that have a two-year waterproof guarantee. This one will, obviously, cost more, but do you want to be playing with wet feet and blisters? And if you take care of these waterproof shoes, they will remain waterproof for a lot longer.

Leather or Synthetic – Here again, you get what you pay for. Obviously, the fine calfskin shoe will cost you more than the synthetic leather shoes. Those calfskin shoes will also be a lot more comfortable and stretch and mold to your feet. And, of course the calfskin has much better waterproofing capability than the synthetic. Leather comes in different grades, so the better the grade, the higher the cost.

Caring for your golf shoes – The one thing that will help your golf shoes last longer is the use of shoetrees. After you complete your round, don't just rip your shoes off and throw them in the trunk of your car. Put shoetrees in first. This does two things for your shoes-it draws the moisture and sweat out of them, and will help the shoes to hold their shape, especially with leather. Have you seen other golfers with shoes that have turned up toes? That's what can happen without shoetrees. Use them and you'll retain their shape and not shrink in size. Also, at least wipe them down with your golf towel after each round. But, of course, the best solution is to have the locker room attendant clean and polish them for you.

Conclusion-Golf shoes aren't required or absolutely necessary. But the fact is, a good pair of shoes can make a big difference in your game. And with the vast selection of shoes on the market today, there's no need to feel uncomfortable or unnatural. The most important thing to remember is, regardless of the style, brand or price, your shoes should fit well, be comfortable and offer good support. Meet these objectives and you should be on your way to a better 18 holes of golf.

About the Author



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