

Back Nine Greens East Bay: Elevate Your Outdoor Living with a Custom Putting Green

For years I watched my neighbor tinker with his backyard. He tried everything from fescue to Bermuda, but the result was always the same: patchy grass, constant watering, and a lot of wasted weekends. When he finally tore it out and installed a synthetic putting green, I saw the potential. That kind of transformation is what Back Nine Greens East Bay delivers, and it has become the go-to choice for homeowners who want a low-maintenance, high-function outdoor space. What started as a niche service for golf enthusiasts has evolved into a versatile landscaping solution that works for families, pet owners, and anyone tired of wrestling with a real lawn.

I have spent the last fifteen years working in outdoor construction, and I have seen how quickly a natural grass lawn can become a burden. The Bay Area climate, with its dry summers and occasional heavy rain, makes it hard to keep turf looking good year-round. That is where synthetic grass shines. It stays green through every season, requires no mowing, and needs very little water. But the real magic happens when you pair artificial turf with a thoughtful patio design. The result is an outdoor living space that feels like a resort, not a chore.



Why Back Nine Greens East Bay Stands Out

When you start looking at putting green installation, you quickly realize that not all turf is the same. The cheap stuff looks fake, feels rough, and fades within a year. [Back Nine Greens East Bay](#) uses premium materials that mimic the look and feel of real bentgrass. The fibers are soft underfoot, the color is natural, and the drainage systems are built to handle the heaviest downpours. That last part matters a lot in California, where we can go months without rain and then get a week of storms. A well-designed putting green uses a permeable backing and a crushed stone base, so water passes through quickly instead of pooling on the surface.

I have worked on projects where the homeowner wanted a full practice green that could handle dozens of chips per day. Others just wanted a small chipping area next to the patio. The key is proper site preparation. You have to excavate the area, compact the subgrade, and install a geotextile fabric to keep weeds from growing up through the turf. Then you add a layer of decomposed granite or gravel for drainage, followed by the turf itself. The seams are sealed with adhesive, and the edges are secured with perimeter fencing or concrete edging. O'Neills has been doing this kind of work for years, and their attention to detail shows in every job.

Designing Your Backyard Putting Green

The first thing I ask clients is how they plan to use the space. Is this a serious practice area for lowering your handicap, or is it more of a fun feature for weekend gatherings? The answer changes everything. A practice green needs multiple holes, different lies, and realistic turf that reacts like a real green. A fun feature can be smaller, simpler, and more integrated into the overall landscape.

Most people want a mix of both. They want a green that looks good from the house and also gives them a place to work on their short game. That means the turf has to be durable enough to handle daily use, but also soft enough to walk on barefoot. Modern synthetic grass delivers on both fronts. The best products use a combination of polyethylene and nylon fibers, with infill materials like silica sand or rubber granules that help the blades stand upright and provide a little cushioning.

Another consideration is the surrounding hardscape. A putting green looks great next to a flagstone patio or a concrete walkway. You can use the same materials for the edging to tie the whole yard together. Concrete edging gives a clean, modern look, while natural stone feels more rustic. Either way, you need a solid border to keep the turf from shifting over time. O'Neills often recommends a treated lumber or metal edging for areas that get a lot of foot traffic.

Putting Green Installation: What to Expect

If you have never seen a professional installation, the process might surprise you. It is not just rolling out a carpet and calling it done. A typical job starts with removal of the existing grass or sod. Then the crew excavates to a depth of four to six inches, depending on the site conditions. They install a base layer of crushed rock or gravel, compact it with a plate compactor, and screed it flat. That base has to be perfectly level, or the putting surface will have bumps and hollows that affect the roll of the ball.

After the base is ready, they roll out the synthetic grass and let it relax for a few hours. Then they cut it to fit the shape of the area, seam the pieces together, and brush in the infill materials. The infill helps the turf resist flattening and keeps it looking fresh for years. For a putting green, you want a firmer surface than you would for a play area, so the infill is typically a bit coarser. The final step is to brush the fibers upright and clean up the edges.

One thing I always tell homeowners: don't skimp on the base. The turf itself can last fifteen years or more, but if the base shifts or holds water, you will have problems. A proper base with good drainage systems is the difference between a green that stays perfect and one that develops puddles and wrinkles. O'Neills has been doing this long enough to know what works in California soils, from the heavy clay in Santa Rosa to the sandy loam near the coast.

Beyond Golf: Other Uses for Synthetic Grass

Once you have a putting green, you might start thinking about other areas of the yard. Synthetic grass is incredibly versatile. Many homeowners use it for pet turf, because it drains well and does not stain. The urine passes through the backing and into the base, so there is no odor or yellow patches. You just rinse it down with a hose every now and then. It is also a great choice for playground surfacing, because the soft fibers provide a cushion for falls. You can even add a layer of rubber mulch underneath for extra safety.



I have seen putting greens that double as a bocce court, a yoga studio, or a children's play area. The surface is clean, level, and comfortable. Some people install golf simulators nearby, so they can practice indoors when the weather turns. The combination of a putting green and a simulator gives you a complete practice setup without leaving home. It is a trend that is growing fast in the Bay Area, where outdoor space is precious and every square foot has to earn its keep.

Maintenance and Longevity

The biggest selling point of synthetic grass is the low maintenance. No watering, no mowing, no fertilizer. But it is not zero maintenance. You should brush the fibers every few weeks to keep them from matting down. You need to remove leaves and debris, especially in the fall.

And once a year, you should give the surface a deep clean with a mild detergent and a power washer. That keeps the turf looking new and prevents the infill from compacting.

For putting greens, the wear pattern is usually around the cup. That area gets more traffic, so the fibers might flatten faster. You can use a stiff brush to fluff them back up, or you can have a professional service come in and groom the turf. Some turf products come with a built-in antimicrobial treatment that prevents mold and mildew, which is helpful in shady areas. And if you have trees nearby, you might need to trim branches to keep falling leaves from staining the fibers.

Another thing to consider is the irrigation system. Even though the turf does not need water, the surrounding plants and lawn do. If you have a putting green next to a flower bed, you might want to install a drip system that waters only the plants. That keeps the green dry and reduces the risk of algae growth. A good landscape contractor can design the whole system so everything works together.

Cost and Value

A backyard putting green is not cheap, but it adds real value to your home. In the Bay Area, where outdoor living space is a premium, a well-designed green can increase the appeal of your property. It also saves money over time on water bills and lawn care. The initial investment pays for itself in convenience and enjoyment. I have seen families use their putting green more than they ever used their lawn. It becomes the center of the backyard, a place where kids play, adults practice, and everyone gathers.

If you are in Santa Rosa or anywhere in Northern California, Back Nine Greens East Bay can help you design and install a green that fits your space and your budget. They handle everything from site prep to final grooming. And because they work with O'Neills, you know the materials are top quality. Whether you want a simple chipping area or a full practice green with multiple holes, they have the expertise to make it happen.

The best part is the reaction you get when friends see it for the first time. They walk into your backyard and stop. They cannot believe it is fake. They ask if they can hit a few balls. And suddenly your backyard is the most popular spot in the neighborhood. That is the kind of outdoor living experience that makes the investment worthwhile. Back Nine Greens East Bay delivers that kind of transformation, and it is one of the smartest upgrades you can make to your home.