

CHIPPING AND PITCHING 101

If putting saves you strokes then chipping and pitching sets you up to save those strokes. If you can develop your skills on and around the green and create a great “short game” you will see your scores go down. Some basic keys to great chipping and pitching are as follows.

- Keep your head steady. Just like when you are putting, it's important to keep your head still and focused on the spot your golf ball just left. This helps you to make more solid contact and a smoother stroke.
- Swing the club with your shoulders and arms while chipping. Using your large muscles helps to get rid of the jitters and helps to provide more consistent contact. Some pitch shots may require you to “turn” just a little bit.
- Be sure to swing all the way through the golf ball. Make sure the club moves past the ball at least as far as you took it away from the ball. It's better to finish with the club higher than you think you need to. That way you have accelerated through the ball.

There are many other things to consider when you are practicing chipping and pitching. Sometimes you may need to carry the ball high and land it soft. Other times a shot that starts low and runs out to your target may work better.

You can make the same stroke, with different clubs, and the ball will react differently. Maybe you're more comfortable using the same club for every chip shot and varying your swing to match the distance and trajectory to your target.