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## TRY PUTTING ON ARTIFICIAL-GRASS SURFACE IN YOUR BACK YARD

*ED HILT Staff Writer*

Joe **DeShayes** can put the 18th green at Augusta National right outside your back door. Or if you prefer, he could put the 18th at Pebble Beach, the 10th at Merion or almost any green you desire adjacent to your backyard deck.

**DeShayes** is not a magician. He's a businessman who can grant the wish of all golf fanatics by installing an artificial-grass putting surface - potentially reproducing some of the most famous golf surfaces in the world - at your home.

And these surfaces are not like the ones you find on a miniature-golf course, which are closer to the tops of pool tables than real putting greens.

**DeShayes** said his greens have the roll of the real thing, claiming the synthetic nylon turf, a half-inch thick, is exactly like bent grass. All you need is the room and the money - anywhere from \$30 to \$36 a square foot depending upon how much landscaping will be necessary - and you can have a conveniently located putting surface.

A 30-foot by 15-foot green - 450 square feet - costs about \$16,000.

Not only would it be fun, but if you practice enough, you might even lower your score.

"The biggest advantage of all is the convenience of practicing on a perfect surface," said

**DeShayes**, with the DeShayes green.

"For most people, going to a golf course and practicing putting every day is not practical. But putting is like most things. To get better, you need to practice.

"Half the game is putting. If you want to be good at putting, you have to take 50 to 100 putts a day to be really good. You could hit some before you go to work. Hit some more when you come home. It's right there at your house for you."

With the Home Golf Center, pins with various elevations - set when the concrete is poured prior to the laying of the padding and the green - enable the golfer to practice several types of putts. The speed is regulated with top dressings of sand.

"You can putt on this without adding sand, but it plays a little slow, about a six or a seven on the stimp meter, where most country clubs are set at nine, and up to 12 for a tournament," said **DeShayes**, who operates **DeShayes, Inc.**, in Haddonfield, and is also a landscaper and golf-course consultant. "What we do is add sand to the turf. It's curly nylon, so it retains the sand. We can get the speed on the green to any reading on the stimp meter the customer would desire." **DeShayes** said he can design a green for someone, or duplicate the green of someone's favorite hole, complete with sand bunkers for work on the short game. One customer put a copy of the 14th green at Tavistock in Camden County in his back yard. Others in the golf business have become customers of Sport Court's Home Golf Center. Renown short-game instructor Dave Pelz uses them to teach. Pepperdine and Rollins, which have top collegiate golf teams, have them. Former Masters champion Ben Crenshaw had one installed in his back yard. The Home Golf Center is guaranteed 10 years in any type of weather and is virtually maintenance-free, **DeShayes** said. "Maybe you might want to use a leaf-blower to keep it clean, but that's about it," **DeShayes** said. For more information on the Home Golf Center, call 429-5445.

**Illustration:** (1) Joe **DeShayes** with the DeShayes Green. Color

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