

Backyard Putting Green Cost Breakdown

A backyard putting green in Arizona is planned at **\$16–\$22 per square foot installed** on the canonical AE base spec. This sheet breaks that number into square-foot pricing by green size, the base and drainage layers underneath it, the cup and contour line items, and the yearly maintenance and repair costs that follow. Every figure is a planning range — final price depends on turf profile, contour complexity, cup count, site prep, access, drainage, and the conditions documented in the signed proposal.

1. Installed cost by green size

Green	Cups / features	Installed / sq ft	Installed total
Small putting-only green (200 sq ft)	2 cups, minimal fringe	\$16 – \$22	\$3,200 – \$4,400
Standard putting-only green (300 sq ft)	3 cups, subtle break	\$16 – \$22	\$4,800 – \$6,600
Mid green with chipping fringe (500 sq ft)	4 cups, single tier	\$16 – \$22	\$8,000 – \$11,000
Full green with chipping approach (800 sq ft)	5 cups, two tiers	\$16 – \$22	\$12,800 – \$17,600
Integrated backyard green (1,000+ sq ft)	6+ cups, multi-tier, sand trap, landscape integration	\$16 – \$22	\$16,000 – \$26,000+
Estate-scale multi-hole layout	Connecting fairway turf	Line-item priced	\$30,000 – \$80,000+

Included at every size: turf, base, drainage, regulation 4.25" cups, removable flagsticks, edge restraint, infill tuning, and AE's 2-year workmanship warranty. Priced separately: site prep (sod removal, concrete demo, tight access), sand traps, shade structures, and landscape integration around the green.

2. What sits inside the per-square-foot number

Line item	What it covers	Cost treatment
Short-blade nylon putting turf	The surface you actually putt on. Higher face weight and denser stitch give a truer roll.	\$6 – \$9 / sq ft material
Chipping fringe turf	Longer-blade collar and chipping approach framing the green.	\$4 – \$6 / sq ft material
Drainage and grading (labor + base)	Excavation, base, laser grading, and contour shaping as one scope.	\$5 – \$8 / sq ft
Regulation 4.25" cup + flagstick	Cup, sleeve, clean turf cut, and removable flagstick, installed.	\$150 – \$250 per cup
Contour breaks	Intentional undulations you putt across — base shaping, not turf.	+\$2 – \$4 / sq ft over flat
Multi-tier construction	Two or three distinct putting levels. A two-tier 500 sq ft green is the common case.	+\$1,500 – \$2,500 typical

Line item	What it covers	Cost treatment
Edge restraint at every free edge	Holds the perimeter so the green does not creep or lift.	\$8 – \$14 / linear foot
Infill tuning to target Stimp	Silica sand hand-tuned to a Stimp 10–12 target, not broadcast.	Included in the range

AE does not install cheap polyethylene “putting-style” turf (\$2–\$4 / sq ft). The ball skids and the surface flattens inside a year.

3. Base layers and drainage options

Layer / option	Spec	Cost treatment
Sub-base excavation	3–4 inches, deeper on expansive clay lots.	Included in the range
Compacted quarter-minus base	The load-bearing layer. Cutting depth here is where cheap installs fail.	\$3 – \$5 / sq ft installed
Grading and contour shaping	Laser grading plus intentional breaks shaped at the base stage, not later.	\$1 – \$2 / sq ft
Perimeter and interior drainage	French drain and punch drains under the green, sized to lot slope and monsoon runoff paths.	\$200 – \$1,500
Difficult drainage conditions	Expansive clay, negative slope toward the house, or a green tucked against a hardscape wall.	+\$1,000 – \$3,000
Edge restraint	Set at every free edge of the green.	\$8 – \$14 / linear foot

A flat lot with good natural drainage sits at the low end of the installed range. The base is the long-lived asset — built to spec it can last 15–20 years, which is why a resurface at year 12 costs far less than the original green.

4. Site prep and add-ons, priced separately

- Removing existing lawn / sod: \$1–\$2 per sq ft.
- Breaking and hauling existing concrete or old pavers: \$3–\$6 per sq ft.
- Access constraints (no gate wide enough for a skid steer, wheelbarrow-only): adds 15–25% to labor.
- Tying into an existing paver deck or pool coping: \$10–\$25 per linear foot of transition.
- Sand trap add-on: \$1,500–\$3,500 depending on size and shape.
- Shade structure over the green (pergola, shade sail): line-item priced separately.

5. Yearly maintenance and repair costs

Item	Cadence	Cost
All-in yearly maintenance (DIY rinsing, blowing, brushing)	Ongoing	\$150 – \$600 / year
All-in yearly maintenance (professional service plan)	Ongoing	\$400 – \$1,200 / year
Infill top-off and re-brushing	Every 12–24 months	\$0.35 – \$0.75 / sq ft
Deep grooming and Stimp re-tune	Annually with regular play	\$250 – \$500 / visit
Sanitizing / odor treatment (dogs)	1–3× per year	\$75 – \$150 / treatment
Perimeter and seam weed control	Yearly	\$50 – \$150 / year

Item	Cadence	Cost
Sand trap upkeep	Yearly	\$100 – \$300 / year
Cup or sleeve replacement	As needed	\$150 – \$300 / cup
Flagstick replacement	As needed	\$40 – \$90 each
Seam re-glue or re-stitch	As needed	\$150 – \$450 / seam
Turf patch (tear, burn, pet damage)	As needed	\$250 – \$900
Edge restraint re-set after settlement	As needed	\$10 – \$18 / linear foot
Base repair for a low spot or birdbath	As needed	\$6 – \$12 / sq ft affected
Drainage correction after a monsoon washout	As needed	\$500 – \$2,500
Full resurface on a sound existing base	Year 10–15	\$8 – \$13 / sq ft

AE's 2-year workmanship warranty covers installation defects. Wear, pet damage, sun fade, and storm damage are maintenance items, not warranty items — and turf manufacturers carry their own separate written warranty terms.

6. Bid comparison checklist

- ☐ Square footage measured on site and stated in the proposal.
- ☐ Turf named by brand, model, face weight, and blade length — putting surface and fringe separately.
- ☐ Base spec with excavation and compacted depth called out in inches.
- ☐ Drainage plan drawn for your specific lot, or explicitly excluded.
- ☐ Cup count and cup positions marked on a layout drawing.
- ☐ Infill weight and the tuned target Stimp reading written down.
- ☐ Edge restraint linear footage listed.
- ☐ Site prep — sod removal, concrete demo, access constraints — scoped and priced as its own line.
- ☐ Contractor ROC license number and insurance certificate verified.
- ☐ Workmanship warranty and manufacturer product warranty listed separately.
- ☐ One post-install ball-roll re-check scheduled within 30 days.

7. Frequently asked questions

How much does a backyard putting green cost?

In Arizona, a backyard putting green costs \$16–\$22 per sq ft installed on the canonical AE base spec. A 200 sq ft putting-only green runs \$3,200–\$4,400; a 300 sq ft green with 3 cups runs \$4,800–\$6,600; a 500 sq ft green with chipping fringe runs \$8,000–\$11,000; an 800 sq ft two-tier green runs \$12,800–\$17,600; and a 1,000+ sq ft integrated green with multi-tier contour and a sand trap runs \$16,000–\$26,000+. Every AE proposal is line-itemed, so you see turf, base, drainage, cups, and infill separately.

How much does it cost to build a putting green per square foot?

\$16–\$22 per sq ft installed. Within that, turf material is roughly \$4–\$9 per sq ft, drainage and base work is roughly \$5–\$8 per sq ft, and contour, cups, edge restraint, and infill tuning make up the rest. Site prep — removing sod, breaking concrete, or tight access — is priced separately because it varies by lot.

What does a putting green cost in Arizona?

\$16–\$22 per sq ft installed for residential greens on the canonical AE base spec. A 300 sq ft putting-only green lands \$4,800–\$6,600; a 500 sq ft green with chipping fringe lands \$8,000–\$11,000; a 1,000 sq ft integrated backyard green with multi-tier contour and a sand trap lands \$16,000–\$26,000+.

Why the \$16–\$22 range — what moves the number?

Turf profile (nylon short-blade putting turf costs more than a chipping fringe turf), contour complexity (flat single-tier is cheaper than multi-tier with breaks), cup count, whether you add a chipping approach or sand trap, and site prep (hauling existing lawn or breaking concrete pushes the low end up). The base and infill spec do not change — those are fixed.

Is a putting green cheaper than lawn turf?

No. Per square foot, a putting green runs roughly 2× to 3× the cost of standard lawn turf. Putting turf itself is a premium material (nylon short-blade), contouring is more labor than a flat lawn, cups and flagsticks are hardware, and infill is hand-tuned instead of broadcast. You are paying for a functional practice surface, not a landscape.

What's the cheapest real putting green I can install?

A 200 sq ft putting-only green with 2 cups, subtle contour, and no fringe — about \$3,200–\$4,400. Below that, you're either giving up ball-roll quality (thinner turf, no infill tuning) or giving up structure (skipping edge restraint or proper base). AE won't quote a green below spec.

Do you finance putting greens?

Yes — AE offers financing on outdoor living projects. Financing is available on any single line item at or above the qualifying minimum, and most putting greens qualify. Terms depend on the total project size.

Does the price include cups, flagsticks, and infill?

Yes — every AE putting green proposal is line-itemed and includes regulation 4.25" cups, removable flagsticks, silica sand infill tuned to Stimp 10–12, base, edge restraint, and 2-year workmanship warranty. There are no post-install add-ons for standard hardware.

How much does it cost to maintain a putting green each year?

Plan on \$150–\$600 per year if you handle rinsing, blowing, and brushing yourself, or \$400–\$1,200 per year on a professional plan. The recurring line items are infill top-off and re-brushing at \$0.35–\$0.75 per sq ft every 12–24 months, an annual deep grooming and Stimp re-tune at \$250–\$500, perimeter weed control at \$50–\$150, and sanitizing at \$75–\$150 per treatment if dogs use the green. Commercial and HOA greens with daily play sit at the upper end.

What do putting green repairs cost?

Cup or sleeve replacement runs \$150–\$300 per cup, flagsticks \$40–\$90 each, a seam re-glue \$150–\$450, a turf patch for a tear or pet damage \$250–\$900, edge restraint re-set \$10–\$18 per linear foot, and base repair for a low spot \$6–\$12 per sq ft of affected area. Drainage correction after a monsoon washout runs \$500–\$2,500. A full resurface on a sound existing base is roughly \$8–\$13 per sq ft.

How long does an artificial putting green last in Arizona?

A properly built residential green typically gives 10–15 years of service, 8–12 years under heavy or commercial play, while the base itself can last 15–20 years if it was built to spec. Base compaction, drainage, turf quality, infill discipline, UV exposure, play volume, and pet traffic are what move that number. Because the base is the long-lived asset, a resurface at year 12 costs far less than the original green.

Full cost page, size tables, and related putting green guides: aeoutdoorliving.com/guides/putting-green-cost-arizona

Prepared by AE Outdoor Living. Planning ranges only — not a quote, bid, or offer. Your number comes from an on-site measurement and a written proposal.