

Picking the Perfect Golf Bag

Getting into golf? A good golf bag is an essential piece of equipment, and the one thing you'll be using on each and every course and hole. There are three major styles of golf bags, and the one that's right for you will depend on your specific needs.

Carry bags are designed for golfers who carry their own gear around the course on foot. These are usually lightweight and have some basic additional features, such as storage pockets for balls, tees, and other small pieces of equipment like gloves and divot repair tools. Carry bags typically come equipped with a single or a dual shoulder strap, and many will have fold-out legs to form a tripod while standing.

The most basic form of carry bag is a "Sunday bag". These minimalist golf bags are very light and typically feature only the bare essentials: storage for balls and tees, and a single club pocket. Another option under the carry bag umbrella is the stand bag, which has some additional bulk but a greater carrying capacity and club dividers.

Cart bags, as the name indicates, are designed for golfers who frequently use golf carts when playing. Intended to stand upright in the cart's bag holder at all times, a cart bag will feature a sturdy base and handles for easy lifting and lowering. These bags are a bit less mobile than the carry bags, usually being heavier and lacking shoulder straps, but they do offer greater storage space and durability.

Staff bags are for those golfers who typically have caddies. Often larger than the other two types, staff bags are extra-durable and protective, and come equipped with a shoulder strap and plenty of pockets for equipment. These are the bags generally used by the pros, but their weight is a downside if you are planning to carry your own gear.

If you are a golfing beginner, the choice is likely between a carry bag and a cart bag. Carry bags are an excellent all-around choice, offering utility without sacrificing mobility. A cart bag may also fit your needs, but if you frequently play without golf cart access, the bag's bulk may not be ideal. While staff bags have their benefits, they are best left to competition golfers who will not be concerned with their considerable size and weight.