

GET UP AND DOWN

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(Top 100 since 2007)



Trade a tough chip
for an easy putt
when you're caught
in a collection area



If you can putt it,
putt it, because
your worst roll
will always be
better than your
worst chip or pitch.



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ROLL IT CLOSE FROM OFF THE GREEN

Your approach shot never left the pin, but it took a hard bounce off the green and funneled into a tightly mown collection area. It's time to chip or pitch—or is it?

Choose the Right Shot

Yes, one option is to chip your ball back onto the putting surface, but these lies are usually pretty tight, and if you

stub it the ball may roll back to your toes. The smart play is to keep the ball on the ground by putting it. In fact, this is my No. 1 short-game rule: If you can putt it, putt it!

How to Roll the Ball from Off the Green

Your instinct probably tells you to use your regular putting stroke with extra *oomph*. However, speeding up your stroke this way often leads to poor contact and inconsistent speed control. Instead, simply exaggerate your backstroke and then swing through with your normal pace. And don't fear taking your hands back beyond your right hip. Even with an extra-long stroke, if you use your normal putting tempo—without adding a burst of speed—you'll make a smooth roll. Let momentum propel the putter through the ball. You'll knock it closer more often this way than by swinging your putter harder or chipping from a tight lie.



Pairing your regular backstroke...

... with an extra-fast forward-stroke robs you of control.



Use a longer backstroke...

... and your normal pace for perfect long-range strikes.