Matching Tee Line Design to How Your Facility Will Be Used

Understanding Your Facility's Usage Patterns

Before planning an artificial tee line installation, the first step is to think carefully about how the space will actually be used day to day. A driving range that serves a high-traffic public recreation center has very different needs from one attached to a private training center or a college golf program. The design decisions you make at the start - how many hitting stations, how much space between them, the type of turf, the drainage layout - all flow from a clear picture of daily traffic and player turnover.

If you are working with a site that sees heavy use by teams practicing multiple times a day, you need a layout that can handle that volume without causing bottlenecks. On the other hand, a facility that hosts occasional lessons or casual drop-ins may prioritize aesthetics and lower operating costs over raw throughput. The key is to match the design to the real demands, not to an ideal or a one-size-fits-all plan.

Step 1: Estimate Daily Traffic and Peak Hours

Start with a rough count of how many golfers or groups will use the tee line on a typical day. If the facility is part of a public course or a driving range open to walk-ins, peak times might be weekends and late afternoons. For a training center tied to a golf academy, the busiest periods may be weekday mornings when lessons are scheduled. Knowing this helps determine the number of hitting stations and the spacing between them.

What to watch: avoid overbuilding. Installing more stations than needed raises the initial cost and the ongoing maintenance burden. At the same time, underestimating traffic leads to overcrowding and frustrated users. A good rule is to plan for the busiest hour you realistically expect, then add a modest buffer of one or two extra stations. This keeps the line functional without wasting resources.

Step 2: Decide on Station Layout and Flow

The arrangement of hitting stations directly affects how many people can use the line at once and how smoothly they move through it. A straight line of stations works well for a simple setup where users walk in one end and out the other. But if the space is narrow or shaped oddly, a staggered or curved layout can fit more stations without making them feel cramped.

Consider the path players take from the entry point to the first station, then to the next, and finally to the exit. If the facility serves large groups - say, a high school team rotating through

drills - you might want wider platforms that let two players share one station. For a more private training center, individual booths with space for a coach behind the player can be more useful.

What to watch: never forget that people need room to swing a club safely. A station that is too tight forces awkward stances and can lead to accidents. Check the turning radius for a full driver swing and for a standard iron swing. Also, allow enough space between stations so that one player's backswing does not crowd the next player. If the line will be used by left-handed and right-handed players, the layout should accommodate both without forcing anyone into a corner.



Step 3: Choose the Right Artificial Grass Surface

Not all artificial grass performs the same under heavy use. A tee line that sees hundreds of swings a day needs a turf with a dense, durable pile that can stand up to repeated impact from club heads and shoe traffic. For a facility with lower turnover, a softer, more natural-looking surface might be acceptable and can reduce the initial cost.

Look for products rated for golf applications. They usually have a higher face weight and a tighter stitch rate, which resist matting and wear over time. The backing system also matters: a

good drainage layer underneath the turf prevents water from pooling on the surface, which is important even in a covered facility because dew and cleaning water need somewhere to go.

What to watch: cheap turf may feel fine when new but can flatten or fade within a year under heavy use. Ask the supplier for wear-test data or references from other driving ranges with similar traffic. If the facility is outdoors, UV resistance is essential, or the surface will turn brittle and lose its color quickly. Also, consider the infill material. Sand or rubber granules help the turf stand upright and absorb shock, but they add weight and require periodic top-ups.

Step 4: Plan the Supporting Infrastructure

An artificial tee line installation involves more than just laying turf over a flat base. The subsurface needs to be properly graded and compacted to prevent settling, and a drainage system must be installed to handle rainwater or irrigation runoff. For a facility that hosts teams, power and data lines for swing analyzers or video feedback systems may be needed at each station. Even if you do not install electronics now, running conduit during construction saves major work later.

Think about how the tee line connects to the rest of the facility. If it is part of a larger driving range, the flow from the tee line to the fairway or target area should feel natural. If it is a standalone practice area, consider adding shade structures, seating, or a small storage shed for balls and tees. These extras may seem secondary, but they have a big effect on how comfortable and usable the space is over time.

What to watch: do not overlook access for maintenance equipment. The mower, blower, or utility vehicle needs a path to every part of the tee line without damaging the turf. A concrete or compacted gravel apron along the back or side of the line can serve as a service road. Plan the drainage outlets so they do not empty onto a walking path or into a neighboring property. A professional designer like paversandturf.com can help you lay out these details to avoid expensive retrofits.

Step 5: Align the Maintenance Schedule with Usage

Once the tee line is installed, its lifespan depends on how well it is maintained. A facility with high daily traffic needs a more frequent maintenance routine than one that sees light use. Brushing the turf to keep the fibers upright, removing debris, and checking the infill level should happen weekly for a busy line and monthly for a quieter one.

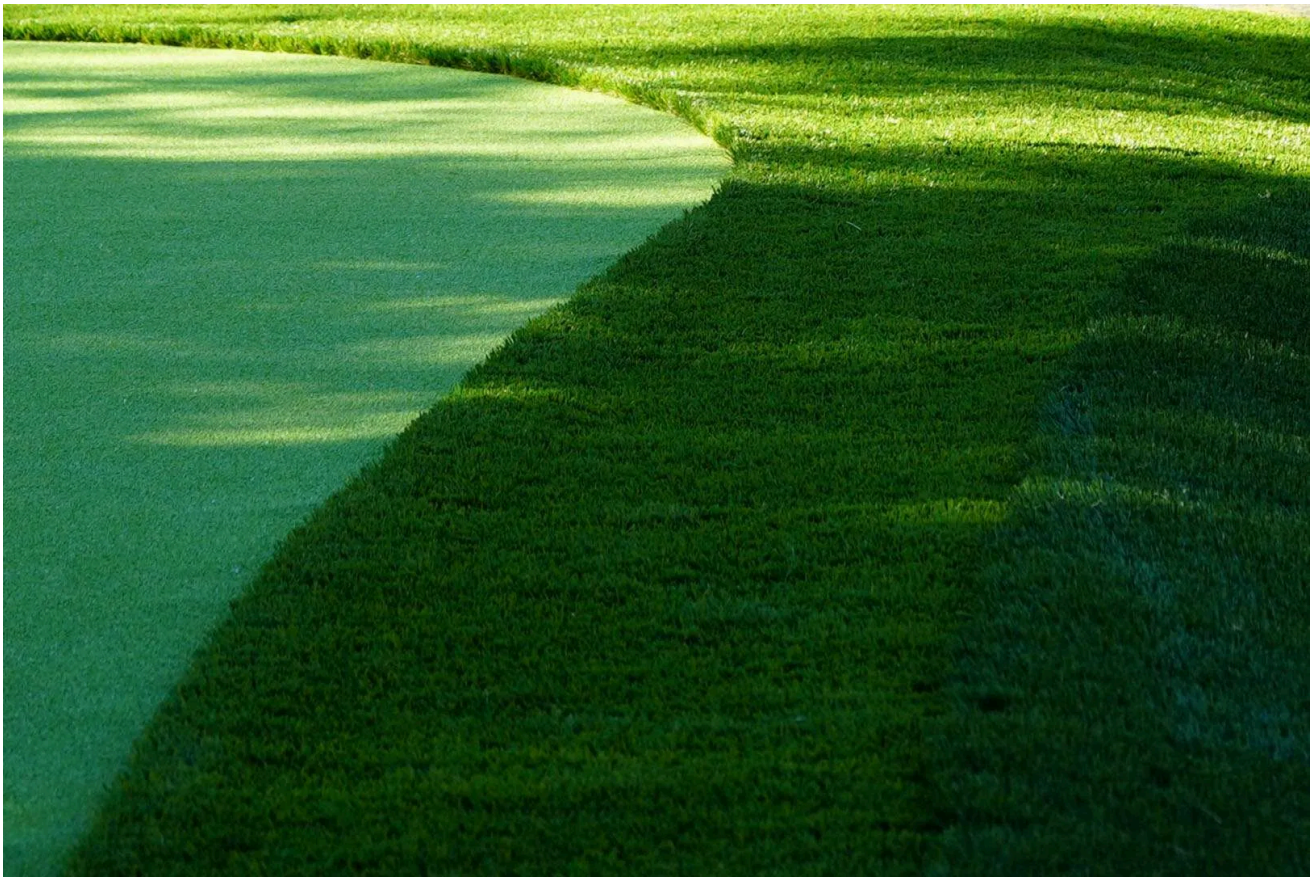
What to watch: do not let the infill settle unevenly. Over time, the granules can migrate to the edges, leaving the center of the hitting area with less support. This causes the turf to flatten and the surface to become less forgiving. A simple drag or rake every few weeks can

redistribute the infill. Also, inspect the seams where turf panels meet. In high-traffic areas, seams can lift or separate, creating a trip hazard. Repair them promptly with a seam adhesive.

For facilities that host tournaments or events, schedule a deep clean and a thorough inspection a week before the event. That way, any issues can be fixed before the extra traffic arrives. If the facility is part of a training center where coaches use the same stations repeatedly, rotate the hitting positions so the wear is distributed. This simple practice can extend the life of the turf by a year or more.

Step 6: Factor in Future Changes

Few facilities stay the same forever. A public recreation center might add a second tee line as demand grows. A college program might upgrade its practice area to host regional competitions. Designing the initial installation with future expansion in mind saves money later. Leave room at one end of the line to add more stations. Run extra conduit and drainage pipe stubs that can be capped for now but connected later.



What to watch: do not overbuild for a future that may never come. It is easy to spend extra on a larger pad or more robust drainage than the site will ever need. A better approach is to design a modular layout where each station is independent. That way, you can add stations one at a time as budget and demand allow. If the facility is on a leased property, check the lease terms

before making permanent improvements. You do not want to invest in a tee line that you have to remove in five years.

Bringing It All Together

Matching a tee line design to facility usage is about making deliberate choices at every stage. Start with a realistic estimate of traffic and peak hours. Choose a layout that fits the space and the flow of players. Select turf and infill that match the wear level you expect. Plan the subsurface, drainage, and utilities so the line works reliably from day one. Set a maintenance schedule that responds to actual use, and leave room for the facility to grow or change.

Each of these steps involves trade-offs. A higher-traffic line may need more frequent brushing and infill top-ups, but the extra care keeps the surface in good condition for longer. A lower-traffic facility can use a less expensive turf, but only if the owner accepts that it will need replacement sooner. The goal is to find the balance that fits the facility's budget, usage patterns, and long-term plans.

Working with an experienced designer or installer, such as paversandturf.com, can help you evaluate these factors and avoid common pitfalls. The time spent planning upfront pays off in a tee line that serves its users well and holds up under the demands of real-world use.