

HOW TO CAROM THE BALL OFF A WALL

If your ball lands within a few feet of a wall, you may need to carom the ball off the wall. The ball's proximity to the wall may make it impossible for you to make a proper stroke.

1 Choose a club with enough loft to get the ball as high as possible off the wall.

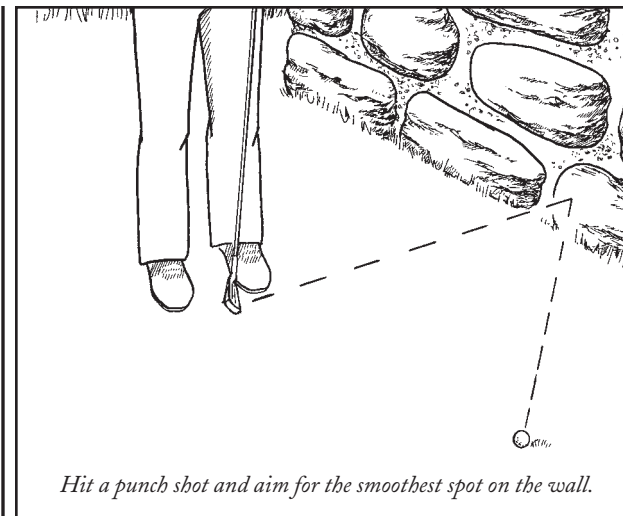
Choose a club that has the loft of a seven iron or greater. A nine iron or pitching wedge is the most common choice. The higher on the wall that the ball hits, the farther it will travel.

2 Aim for the smoothest spot on the wall.

The direction of the shot will be greatly affected by the surface of the wall. The smoother the wall, the more predictable the shot will be.

3 If possible, play the ball in the middle of your stance.

This is the ideal stance for this shot. However, if you are only a few ball lengths from the wall, you will have no choice but to play the ball closer to your front foot. The closeness to the wall may have the greatest effect on the extent of your follow-through.



4 Map out the ricochet.

The ball will bounce off the wall at the same angle that it hits. Decide where you want the ball to land and imagine a line extending to that spot from the wall. Pick the spot on the wall for which the angle coming off the wall is equal to the angle toward the wall, and mark the spot in your mind. This is much like a bank shot in billiards.

5 Hit a “punch shot” to limit the follow-through.

Keep your hands in front of the ball and take the club away vertically by cocking your wrists. Hit down into the ball and then into the ground under the ball in order to create enough force to get the ball off the wall with as little follow-through as possible. Imagine you are swinging an ax.

The Rules

You cannot push, scrape, or spoon the ball to gain better positioning or you will incur a two-stroke penalty. You must play the ball as it lies.

If the ball comes off the wall and hits your body, equipment, or caddie, you will be assessed a two-stroke penalty. You will have to play the ball where it lies. Move your equipment and caddie away from the shot and keep your body out of the line of the shot as much as possible. If your body is in the line of the shot, it may be better to declare the ball unplayable and take a one-stroke penalty, but make certain that your lie for the next shot improves.

Some walls on golf courses may be considered an “immovable obstruction” from which relief is available. Local rules would apply.

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