



BRUCE BARILLA

Bruce Barilla has consulted at over 60 clubs. As a courtesy, he provides many complimentary teaching tools for a better locker room at: www.lrcgolf.com

Limited Space for Lockers? *There Are Solutions!*

Not all locker rooms are large, like in many older clubs. However, a huge locker room is not always necessary to have enough lockers to satisfy each member.

Solutions to limited space: For example, the club can offer different sizes at different annual fees. A basic one-foot wide full-size 6' tall locker with three shelves works well for the most part. There can be locker coves with double-wide tall with multiple storage shelves on one side. Three-stack lockers (two inside shelves) up to six-stack lockers (one inside shelf), with a separate community closet, accommodate members who do not have many items to store.

Although double-stack lockers are common, they usually lack space to hang a suit that will not touch the bottom and wrinkle. There must be at least 40 inches of inside height from the clothes bar to the bottom. In addition, members do not like the lower locker because it is awkward to use. If a club lacks double-stack locker rentals, an option is to connect the upper and lower doors with a bracket and rent them as one locker.

Additional shelves can also be installed, making it a shoe locker and a spot for placing folded clothes. A solution for those clubs who want double stack lockers is to select the uneven type. These allow for more hanging space height. Painting old metal lockers will mean a fresh look and save thousands of dollars. They usually have more room anyway.

DESIGN FEATURES TO CONSIDER WHEN PURCHASING NEW

Design features such as adjustable shelves and inside hooks not in the way of the clothes bar prove that the difference is in the details. A higher-than-normal clothes bar for longer garments is functional. The door on a locker next to a wall should open toward the wall. Flat tops without decorative molding allow more area for the placement of shoes.

Unique features include a small mirror and towel bar attached to the inside of the door with an item tray above it, a security lock box or safe, inside lighting, phone chargers and electrical outlets. Louvered doors help with fresh airflow as does open space at the top and bottom, rather than the door shutting tightly against the frame.

Using screws to attach nameplates is a problem in the making, especially if the manufacturer did not pre-drill the holes. Two-way tape is simpler and eliminates the possibility of stripping the screw holes.

The bottom of the locker door must be at least 6 inches from the carpet to prevent it from hitting the tops of the shoes. Clothes hooks on locker end panels provide an option for temporarily hanging suits or coats.

Bath towel storage with soiled towel drops as part of each locker cove is handy. Colleton River Club (South Carolina) has a shoe cubby locker with 10 shelves for guests who only have a pair of shoes to store. I also recommend having a guest-only locker cove close to the shoeshine room.

The most impressive idea I have ever seen is the first and last initial of each member engraved on flat front locker knobs at TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm (Maryland) by Jerry Hansen, now retired locker room manager. Personalization below the member's name such as President, Club Champion and Member since ____ adds a nice touch.

REMEMBER WHO IS PAYING THE BILL

New lockers need to offer more than good looks. Request a sample for members to review. If the architect or manufacturer tries to sell you something you do not want or need, go elsewhere. After all, the club is paying the bill and you, as a board member or general manager, will have to deal with complaints afterward. Consult, too, with the locker room staff.

My personal choice for wood lockers is Treeforms. When purchasing new lockers, ensure they are at least the same size or larger than your existing lockers and with no fewer features or you will hear complaints.

Please go to <https://www.lrcgolf.com/html/lockers.html> for more information and an extensive photo gallery. **BR**