

**FAQ 9:**

***a) Are you allowed to remove leaves and sand from a putting green even if your ball is not on the green?***

***b) Are you allowed to remove sand on a green using the palm of your hand?***

**Applicable Rule(s): a) Rule 23-1 (Loose Impediments – Relief)**

*Except when both the loose impediment and the ball lie in or touch the same hazard any loose impediment may be removed without penalty.*

**b) Rule 16-1a(i) (Putting Green - General)**

the player may remove loose impediments, provided he does not press anything down.

**Answer:**

**a) Yes.**

**Leaves** (stones, twigs branches, dung, worms, insects and the casts and heaps made by them) are natural objects and as such, provided they are not fixed or growing, solidly embedded or adhering to the ball, they are loose impediments.

Snow and NATURAL ice, other than frost, are either casual water or loose impediments, at the option of the player.

Dew and frost are NOT loose impediments.

**Sand** and loose soil are loose impediments on the putting green, but not elsewhere.

As rule 23-1 says, you are allowed to remove loose impediments so long as they and your ball are not in the same hazard.

**b) Yes.**

If in removing loose impediments from the green you cause the surface to be roughened then, so long as it was not your intention to test the surface of the green, there is no penalty, provided of course that you did not press anything down.