

Equipment Purchasing Guide for Open Water Scuba Diver Course

All below items should be of **dive shop quality**, not the type purchased at sporting goods stores or discount stores.

Required items

Mask

- Fit is the most important. Make sure it is comfortable and seals.
- Masks with nose purge are discouraged.
- Color is not super important, but we at EI dive masks with black skirts. It aids in light signal recognition when diving with lights.
- *Optional: Neoprene mask straps may make masks more comfortable for longer haired individuals.*

Snorkel

- Simple ones with bottom purge is what we recommend
- Dry snorkels are not our favorites. In our experience they break and cost more.
- *Optional: Neoprene snorkel keeper may make snorkels more comfortable for longer haired individuals.*

Fins

- Open heeled fins are preferred.
- Simple, single blade fin with no fancy gimmicks are suggested. Gimmicks just break and may not be suitable for all kicks. In addition, gimmicks cost more money.
- If thinking of going into Cave/Technical diving in the future we suggest a stiffer bladed fin like the Dive Rite Fin, Mares Quattro, or OMS Slip Stream. Better to buy fins only once.

Booties

- The fins are placed over these and are worn when walking around pre- and post-dive.
- High top over low cut is suggested as it provides better heel protection and warmth if needed.
- For warm water diving (Florida), thickness is not important. 3mm is most common and cheapest.

Wetsuit

- 3 mm full wetsuit is the most versatile and what we recommend. It works in the springs and on tropical coral reefs. A 5 mm suit works best for the spring water temperature, but is a bit overkill for tropical waters. Spring water is 72 degrees.
- Wetsuit needs to fit snug, but not cut off blood circulation. Purpose is to keep warm water near body and reduce water moving in and out. This fit is key to keeping warm.
- Hoods are highly suggested if using a 3 mm suit

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or needed purchasing advice. If you already have some stuff and question whether it will work or not, give us a call

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