

# I have read a couple places that its best to bring your OWN snorkeling gear if you plan on snorkeling because the stuff they rent out doesn't always fit well?

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In pretty much a child's harness and if you would use a harness. Some folks say each brings their own mask. Be great to have one that fits perfectly. This does depend on a good selection, and most folks use them and do just fine, but if you plan on using it at all have a good one. This is a good one to have in the bag. It probably cost more.

If you decide to buy one, keep it as close to your face as you can. Each brand and model fits differently, so you'll need to test them. To test them, hold them to your face with the strap out of the way. If you can hold it to your face just by holding this your nose, it should be a suitable fit for you.

To check if the mask fits, put a finger over your nose and take a deep breath. If it stays on your face then most likely it's a good fit. Then after you try it, put a little bit of toothpaste on the glass and clean it off. Otherwise it will fog a bit.

Make sure you 'rub' it into the glass. Do this at least a half dozen times with a brand new mask. The manufacturers spray them with a protective coating (the lenses). This coating will cause rapid fogging unless removed. Toothpaste (most kinds, especially the old fashioned 'paste' rather than gel) contains abrasive material that will gently scrub off this coating. I've also known people who have had good luck with the product Soft Scrub, a kitchen cleanser. Any mild abrasive will work.

If you are planning to dive in the future, buy the mask from a dive store.

You don't need to spend a lot of money to get a good mask. Try them on!

Two L.A. Divers (Steve Franks) that never try it!

Shoreland Magazine 2 (I have one of them, best mask I ever owned! I've good ones for the others but don't use them.)

You don't need an expensive mask either. Some people like the dry and/or prong ones but I like a single large foam snorkel with a fit. That is the industry body in a soft 'skin' gasket to create every model that comes out to them. Dry, water frame, flippers, prongs, etc., etc. - most of them are simply what you get used to and are comfortable with. There isn't anything wrong with an inexpensive standard open tube snorkel. Nothing wrong with one with glasses either. Accept that the nose bulb and valve, the nose to head or substation (my opinion). Again, get one that is comfortable in your mouth, and that the side vent (over lips) is diameter or angle including about air space leading to a 1/2" hole. Most standard brands will have an acceptable size tube.

Standard masks don't have to be imported from the states, but most are imported from the states. If it fits and works well, and is comfortable, it's the one you want. The standard 1/2" masks that work well. WXYZ better than a 1/2" mask, because it fits a face. I don't even look at the price, and when I buy the same when mask shopping. Try them all for fit, find the best one, and then look at price.

Again as mentioned above, how you fitting the part of 'holder and' is to place the strap in front of the mask, slightly press the mask to your face, and inhale to create negative pressure inside the mask. Then hold your breath for 10-15 seconds to inhale, lean forward, and use if the mask comes free from your face. A proper fitting mask should hold the seal.

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