

# 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?

Marty Casado Thu, Dec 7, 2006 [Diving & Snorkeling](#) 0 8983

No penny worth a choice between cover and if you would use it later. Some folks buy good things that even work. Its great to have one that fits perfectly. The dive shops have a good selection, and most folks use them and do just fine, but if you plan on being in it all time go ahead and get one. Plus take up more room in the baggage. It probably cost more.

If you decide to buy one, stop at a wetsuit shop and let them help you. 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 inhaling the your nose, it should be watertight for you.

To check if the mask fits, put it against your face (don't use the strap) and take a deep breath. If it stays on your face then most likely it's a good fit. Then when you buy it, put a thin layer of tooth paste 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 these two:

Two Liberator (also known as the "Lib")

Skorpan Magnan 2 (I have two of them, but mask I most wear) I've paid more for the others but don't use them.

You don't need an expensive mask either. Many people like the dry-strap gear that has a little or single strap from forehead with a clip. Tried in the hobby store to see if it's a "one" given to me and I would have used that one but it was too small. Dry, water-tight, goggles, goggles, etc., etc., etc. - most of them are simply that you get used to and are comfortable with. There isn't anything wrong with an inexpensive standard open side mask. Nothing wrong with one with glasses either, except that the nose bulb and valves, the more to break or malfunction (my opinion). Again, get one that is comfortable to your needs, and that the hole isn't over large to diameter or length (looking ahead) and you can breathe in and out. Many standard masks will have an acceptable size hole.

Several masks don't have to be imported from the states, they are made in the states. Key thing on mentioned above is fit. If it fits and seals well, and is comfortable, it's the one you want. I've found 52\$ masks that will work WAY better than a \$100 mask, because if you find a face I don't even look at the price, and advice folks the same when mask shopping. Try them all for fit, find the best one, and then look at price.

Again as mentioned above, be very hating the good or better one 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 (do NOT continue to inhale) lean forward, and see if the mask comes free from your face. A proper fitting mask should hold the seal.

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