



Wade Fishing Gear

What to Wear Fishing

Be sure to check the forecast before your trip and pack accordingly. Be prepared for rapidly changing conditions and inclement weather, even during the summer, as afternoon storms and cold fronts can bring unseasonably cool temperatures and precipitation. The following list is primarily for warm weather. Review our clothing suggestions at the bottom for spring, fall, and winter recommendations.

Lightweight Fishing Shirt or Sun Hoody

Quick Dry Pants

- Quick-dry pants with lightweight wading boots or shoes are best in summer.
- Protect from high-elevation sun, biting flies, thistles, brush, and branches.

Quick Dry Underwear - Cotton underwear/clothing does not dry quickly, which is uncomfortable.

Lightweight Wading Boots or Shoes

- Simms Flyweight Boots, Astral Brewer 2.0 or Rassler 2.0.
- Provides ankle support, foot protection, and aquatic traction.
- Vibram soles are best for hiking and fishing. **Felt soles are prohibited in Yellowstone Park.**

Wet Wading or Wool Socks

- Simms Wet Wading Socks, neoprene socks, or wool socks

Ball Cap or Wide Brimmed Hat for sun and errant fly protection.

Polarized Sunglasses – A Must!

Smith and Costa make premium polarized fishing sunglasses. We recommend Brown, Bronze, and Copper photochromic lenses, which are the most versatile. Mirrored lenses block extra light and work as a mirror for applying sunblock on your face. We recommend bringing an extra pair as a backup. Brighter lenses like Smith's Ignitor in rose or yellow work well on cloudy days or dark conditions. Although lighter lenses are great in dimmer light, they aren't as good in bright sunlight as they let more light through, leading to eye fatigue and headaches. Gray lenses are okay on bright days but too dark on cloudy days.

Waders

Waders

Breathable waders are recommended for spring, fall, and winter trips. They may be worn during summer when the forecast calls for cool, rainy conditions or if you have a low tolerance for cool-to-cold water.

Wading Boots

- Vibram and felt soles work well.
- Removable cleats and spikes provide additional traction but are **not allowed in boats.**
- **Felt soles are prohibited in Yellowstone Park.**

Wading Staff – *Optional.*

Carrying Daily Essentials

Your wade fishing items should be packed in a day pack, sling, or chest pack with an integrated day pack. Vests are okay for light loads but often cause shoulder fatigue and pain with heavier loads. You may fish within a mile or less of your vehicle and may only need to carry a little with you, returning to your vehicle for lunch or to drive to another fishing location.

At other locations, you may not return to the vehicle until the end of the day and must be prepared to carry everything necessary for a full day's fishing. Your pack should be large enough to carry your lunch, water/beverages, rain jacket, a warm layer, fishing gear, and other essentials. Ask us for recommendations on your fishing location.

Items for Your Day Pack

- Day Pack, Sling, or Chest Pack** – large enough to carry your daily essentials.
- Lunch & Snacks**
- Water Bottles**
 - 26 to 36 ounce bottles are recommended.
 - Use one for water and one for a hydrating beverage such as Gatorade or Powerade.
 - You may carry a 50-70 ounce (1-2 Liters) hydration bladder for water and a bottle of Gatorade, etc.
 - Powdered energy drink packets work well for refills.
 - On backcountry trips, guides carry water filters to refill bottles daily.
 - Recommended: Yeti, Hydro Flask, Nalgene, or similar bottles.
 - Hydration bladders/reservoirs - CamelBak or Osprey.
- Rain Jacket**
- Rain Pants*** - *Optional*. Good in summer if you don't wear waders.
- Warm Layer** - fleece jacket or shirt, puffy jacket.
- Toilet Paper, Wet Wipes, Hand Sanitizer**
- Sunblock & Lip Balm**
- Insect Repellent** - June & July mainly, sometimes August, depending on conditions.
- Cell Phone/Camera**
- Bear Spray** (when in bear country)
- Binoculars** - *Optional*

Fishing Gear

Rods, reels, flies, and terminal tackle (leaders, tippet, indicators, split shot, floatants, etc.) are provided, but feel free to bring your gear. Please get in touch with us before your trip for recommendations.

Fly Rods & Reels

- **Nine-foot 5 & 6 Weight Rods** - Versatile for most trout fishing in Montana and Wyoming. You can bring lighter rods (2-4 weights) for dry flies and heavier rods (7-8 weights) for streamers, nymph fishing, and wind.
- **5 Weight Rods** - Present dry flies more delicately than heavier rods and are suitable for light and standard nymphing. They aren't as good with large flies, weight, and wind as 6-weight rods.
- **6 Weight Rods** - Cast split shot, indicators, heavy and large flies, and wind better than lighter rods.
- **7 & 8 Weight Rods** - Great for streamer fishing, large, heavy flies, sinking lines, and wind.
- **2 to 4 Weight Rods** - Good for dry flies on smaller streams but don't handle large flies, weight, or wind well.
- **9', 9' 6" & 10' Rods** - Excellent for boat and nymph fishing and have superior mending abilities and leverage than shorter rods.
- Rods **under 9'** aren't recommended for boat fishing or nymphing.
- **7' 6" to 8' 9" Rods** - Great for short, accurate casts with dry flies, especially on small streams and creeks.

Fly Lines

Floating lines cover most fishing conditions. Weight-forward lines are preferred, but double-tapered lines work well. Nymph tapers are good for turning over strike indicators, split shot, and heavy nymphs.

Streamer-specific lines work well for casting large, heavy streamers. Sinking lines can be used to search deep.

Fishing Vest or Pack

Leaders

- **7.5', 2x – 3x** are preferred, versatile, and great when fishing two flies.
- **9', 2x – 4x** are good options, especially for technical dry fly fishing.

Tippet

- **2x – 5x** will cover most situations. Your guide will have plenty of tippet material and sizes.
- Fluorocarbon tippet is excellent for nymph fishing; nylon tippet is best for dry flies.

Flies & Fly Boxes

We provide all the flies, but buying locally is best based on your guide's recommendations.

If you wish to tie your flies or purchase some in advance, contact us for fly recommendations.

Retractor(s), Nippers & Hemostats

Ketchum Release – responsible, fish-friendly release tool; release fish without handling or touching.

Monomaster – responsibly store used tippet. <http://www.monomaster.nl>

Waterproof Fly Treatments – FlyAgra, Aquel, Gink

Desiccants - Dry Shake, Frog's Fanny

Split Shot - Sizes AB, BB & B are often used, although sizes 1-6 can sometimes be useful.

Strike Indicators

- Air-Lock and Oros Strike Indicators in 3/4" are best and easily adjust without kinking your leader.
- New Zealand wool is excellent for lightweight and short-leash nymphing.
- Palsa or Umpqua Strike II indicators work well for short-leash nymphing and delicate presentations.

Tie-Fast Knot Tool – Excellent for nail knots.

Hook Hone

Waterproof Thermometer – for checking water temperatures.

Clothing

Be sure to check the forecast before your trip and pack accordingly. Be prepared for rapidly changing conditions and inclement weather, even during the summer, as afternoon storms and cold fronts can bring unseasonably cool temperatures and precipitation. We conduct trips in all but the most extreme and unsafe conditions.

The following items should be packed in your luggage for several days of fishing, dining, and relaxing.

Summer Trips (*Mid-June to Mid-September*)

- Lightweight Fishing Shirts (2-3)**
- Sun Hoodies (2-3)**
Sun and biting fly protection. *Guide Tip* - doubles as a pajama top at night.
- Quick Dry Pants and Shorts (2-3 Pairs each)**
- Casual Pants, Shirts** - For hanging out after fishing, dinner, etc., Kuhl pants, Mountain Khakis, jeans, etc.
- Belt(s)**
- Quick Dry & Daily Underwear**
- Dry Socks** for after fishing.
- Dry Shoes, Boots, Flip Flops**, etc., for after fishing, dinner, walking around town, and lounging.
- Rain Jacket**
- Rain Pants or Bibs** - *Optional*. Good to have in summer if you don't bring waders on a trip.
- Warm Jacket & Layer**
Great for cool mornings, evenings, and rapidly changing weather.
Recommended: Patagonia Micro Puff, Nano Puff, Nano-Air Jacket, R1 Pullover, Early Rise Snap Shirt.
- Sun Gaiter (Buff), Bandana/Scarf** for sun and insect protection.
- Sun Gloves**
- Neck Cooling Towel** for hot weather.
- Fishing Hats**
- Wet Wading Socks (1-2 pairs)** for fishing.

Spring, Fall & Winter Trips (*Before June 15 & After September 15*)

In addition to the items listed above, we recommend the following items for spring, fall, and winter.

- Warm/Insulated Jackets (1-2)**
Recommended: Patagonia Down Jacket, Simms Bulkley Jacket.
- Warm Mid Layer Shirt, Hoodie, Vest (2)**
Recommended: Patagonia R1 Pullover, Patagonia Early Rise Snap Shirt, Down Vest, etc.
- Baselayer Tops (2-3)**
Recommended: Patagonia Capilene Lightweight, Midweight, Air, & Thermal Weight Tops.
Simms Lightweight & Midweight Tops, or similar synthetic or Merino Wool tops.
- Baselayer Bottoms (2 Pairs)**
Recommended: Patagonia Capilene Midweight, Air, & Thermal Weight Bottoms.
- Warm Pants (1-2 Pairs)** - Great for under waders.
Recommended: Patagonia R1 Pants, Patagonia Tough Puff Pants.
Simms Challenger Sweat Pants, Simms Cold Weather Pant, or similar fleece pants.
- Warm Hat & Gloves**
- Wool Socks (Several Pairs)**
- Fleece Neck Gaiter**
- Insulated Waterproof Boots** - Keep your feet warm and dry when not fishing.
- Waders & Boots – no spikes or cleats in boats, please!**

Personal Items

- Wallet & Credit/Debit Cards**
- Cash**
- Guide & Lodge Gratuities** (Separate Envelopes)
- Reading Material/Guidebooks**
- Eyeglasses/Contacts** - With Repair Kit
- Cell Phone**
- Camera & Lenses** – Batteries, memory cards & chargers.
- iPod/MP3 player w/chargers, Headphones, Portable Speaker**
- Laptop/Tablet & Chargers**
- Toiletry Kit** – Toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, deodorant, shaving kit.
- Personal Medications**
- First Aid Kit w/band aids, waterproof tape**
- Ibuprofen, acetaminophen, naproxen, aspirin**
- Immodium, Tums**
- Neosporin, hydrocortisone cream**
- Hand Lotion**
- Aloe/Sunburn lotion**
- Bar of soap**
- Large Garbage Bag** - keep wet items separate from dry clothing.
- Gallon Zip Lock Bags** (3-4) – For Misc. items
- BYOB**
- Personal Snacks**
- Playing Cards/Cribbage Board**

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Tailout Brown LLC
Greater Yellowstone Flyfishing Outfitters

Flyfishing Adventures in Montana & Wyoming

414 W. Front Street

Livingston, MT 59047

(406) 579-4850

Email - info@yellowstone.fishing

www.yellowstone.fishing