

We wish to thank you for choosing us, Aquatic Realm Scuba Center, as your dive center. We value you as a customer and look forward to providing you with the equipment, top notch training and some of the most adventurous dive travel in the world. Diving is a great activity that is only made better by the right choice of equipment to let you see, breathe and swim underwater. This article is written to assist you in making the best choice of your mask, snorkel, fins and boots.

**Choosing Your Mask, Fins, Snorkel and Boots:**

Mask, Snorkel, Fins and Boots are very personal equipment. They fit directly on your face, in your mouth and on your feet. The right choice insures comfort and the most efficient movement exploring your new underwater environment. In fact they are so important, we pioneered the attitude that we wanted our dive students to have the knowledge and training to purchase their own personal dive equipment by offering the try it before you buy it program.

**Choosing a Scuba Mask – Comfort and Fit First**

When it comes to a dive mask you will be looking for comfort and fit first. The more expensive masks have the finer silicone materials and mask features that will enhance your comfort and improve the fit. In water evaluation is really the only way to test the perfect fit. With our highly trained dive staff you will have all the assistance you need to make the right decision during your pool diving.

To fit a mask pull or push any loose hair covering your face back so it will not interfere with your seal on your face. Drop the head strap away from the seal on the mask and spread the far edges of the skirt with your thumbs. Place your face into the mask and release your thumb hold on the skirt. Inhale lightly from your nose. This should make a very secure seal. Pull the strap over your head spreading the center of the strap over the crown of your head. Make sure the mask doesn't put pressure on any of your facial features and it comfortable above water.

Check the fit in a mirror and ask your Sales Assistant at Aquatic Realm Scuba Center, for an opinion.

**Our try it before you buy it program takes all of the guesswork out of purchasing personal dive equipment.**



**Snorkels – Key to Surface Swimming**

As a scuba diver you will have some portion of most every dive where it will require some swimming at the surface. The snorkel is the best tool a diver can use. Some snorkels are easier to clear than others so during you pool diving you will get the opportunity to find the one that is right for you.

Choose a snorkel that allows free exchange of air that is comfortable in your mouth and look for a fracture that will deflect water from entering the breathing tube. If you are not completely comfortable with water in your mouth then a dry snorkel is an option also.



**Fins and Boots – Moving through the water**

Because moving through the water is most efficiently done with a pair of fins, choosing the right fins for the power of your legs is important. All fins are NOT equal and the right fin will make diving easier and more enjoyable. There are many options available and with the expertise of our dive staff you will quickly find the fin that conserves air and energy usage. Adjustable strap fins are the most common for scuba diving in the USA because this type of fin permits use of dive booties. Dive boots make all types of diving more comfortable. Choose boot style of high top or slip on, thick or light weight soles and insulation protection. Our sales staff will analyze your diving style and steer you to the best options for dive boots.