



# Pick a Paddle

Picking the proper canoe or kayak paddle can make paddling easier.




Plastic paddles are inexpensive, but heavy. Aluminum and fiberglass paddles are inexpensive, light and durable. But, their shafts feel cold. Wood paddles are light, but require maintenance. Wood laminate (glued wood pieces) paddles are durable and light, but expensive.

Canoe paddles have many blade shapes and grip styles.

## Paddle grips

- \* **T-SHAPED GRIP:**  good for turning strokes on moving water.
- \* **PEAR-SHAPED GRIP:**  good for power strokes on flatwater.

## Blade types

- \* **SQUARE-ENDED BLADE:**  good for all-around use.
- \* **BEAVERTAIL BLADE (ROUNDED):**  good for flatwater.
- \* **BENT-SHAFT:**  provides more power.

A canoe paddle with a plastic blade, aluminum shaft and T-grip is good for beginners. It is a compromise between cost, weight, durability and style.

Don't forget to pick the right size. Stand beside the paddle with the blade on the ground. The grip should reach the area between your chin and nose.

Kayak paddles also come in a variety of styles and sizes.

## Blade types

- \* **FLAT BLADE:**  easy to control.
- \* **CURVED BLADE:**  allows for more power, harder to control.

## Blade arrangement

- \* **UN-FEATHERED BLADES:**  blades in the same plane.
- \* **FEATHERED BLADES:**  blades in a different plane.

An un-feathered kayak paddle with a flat blade is a good choice for beginners.