First dive gear: what to buy, in what order

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You don't need to buy everything at once. This is a common order for new divers. Try gear on at a dive shop before you buy, and keep renting the rest until you know what you like.

1. **Mask, snorkel, fins and boots.** Fit matters most here, and they're the cheapest to own. A mask that fits your face won't leak. Buy fins and boots together so they fit each other.
2. **A dive computer.** It goes on every dive, keeps your log and is the gear most divers buy next. Look for a screen you can read easily, simple buttons, nitrox if you'll use it, and an easy way to download your dives.
3. **An exposure suit** that fits you, if you dive often in the same conditions. Choose for the coldest water you'll dive, not the warm surface. Local quarries can be much colder below the thermocline.
4. **Small safety gear:** a surface marker buoy (SMB) and a whistle. Cheap, light, and worth owning.
5. **BCD and regulator, last.** Wait until you know what kind of diving you'll do. Rent them until then. Once you own them, have them serviced on the maker's schedule, and budget for it.

Usually keep renting

- [ ] Tanks
- [ ] Weights

Good questions to ask the shop

- [ ] Can I try it in the pool first?
- [ ] Who services it, how often, and what does that cost?
- [ ] What would you buy for the diving I do?

My plan

Item _____ Budget _____

Item _____ Budget _____

Item _____ Budget _____

Notes _____

This is not a substitute for dive training. Follow your instructor, your training agency, your dive operator and your dive computer.
Free from DiveFolk, divefolk.com. Checked November 27, 2026. Spot a mistake? hello@divefolk.com