

# EQUIPMENT roll out SKIS/BOARDS rent/buy

*The most essential pick of ski equipment to own is your boots*

Everyone has their own opinion as to whether they should rent or buy ski equipment. The argument for and against is changing and very personal.

*The same reasoning for buying or renting skis applies to snowboards.*

## Buying

You can buy a ski for the conditions you plan to ski most of the time. You learn how your skis handle and get a feel for what they do best. You also learn how your ski performs in different conditions.



Your skis can also be mounted with bindings that are set up just for your boots, rather than the multi-adjustable and heavier rental bindings.

Financially, it might be less expensive to buy skis. This of course depends on the number of days and types of ski trips you typically take in a year. For instance:

- Top of the line new skis, poles and bindings will run you about \$1000.
- There's an additional cost of a bag for transporting, airline baggage charges, and the occasional tuning & wax.
- You can figure top of the line ski rental may cost around \$50 a day.
- Let's say a typical ski club person

averages one fly away trip a year and perhaps four two-day trips to the local mountain. If you do the math, you will break even in less than two years.

- Of course, if you buy new skis at the end of the season or used demo skis, your break even point will arrive sooner.

With your own skis, there is no waiting in line for rental equipment once you arrive on the slopes. You just have to click in and you're on the slopes.

There's no transporting skis. Carrying skis around is tough — they're long and unwieldy, and make getting on public transportation and through airports more difficult.

Most airlines now charge for travelling with skis. If your trip involves renting a car, you have to get a car large enough to fit the skis, or rent a ski rack. This means that for traveling by air, it's often cheaper to rent skis.

If you rent skis, you just hand them back at the end of the ski trip. Often when you rent skis you can leave them at the shop close to the slopes. No schlepping them back and forth from where you are staying.

## In Conclusion

If you're a beginner, or a child, you should rent skis so you can upgrade your skis as your skiing progresses.

Just because you own skis or a board doesn't mean you can't rent— like when you wake up to a foot of powder and you only brought your skinny skis.

Whether you choose to buy or rent depends on how often you ski, your level of skiing and how you travel to the slopes.

Whether you rent or buy, a must buy is your own custom fitted boots with proper sport orthotics. ■

## Renting

You can rent skis for the day's snow conditions — if you buy skis, you're going to end up skiing your skis in whatever the conditions. And you can potentially change the ski during the trip if conditions change.

