



Selecting A Baseball Glove

A number of factors are involved in choosing a baseball glove to meet your needs, including size, your position and your budget. Anyone looking to buy a baseball glove should make the following considerations:

Your Position: Baseball Gloves come in different shapes and sizes based on the position they will be used for. For example, pitchers gloves and infield gloves are generally smaller than an outfielder's glove, and first baseman's gloves and catchers mitts are unique unto themselves. If you will be playing multiple positions, a utility glove (which is larger than an infielder's glove) may be your best bet.

Your Budget: Baseball gloves range in price from under \$15 for base models, to over \$200 for high end gloves from manufacturers such as Nokona or Rawlings. Quality baseball gloves generally cost a bit more, but will likely last longer. If you expect to get heavy use out of your baseball glove, it may be less expensive in the long run to spend a few dollars more on a glove that will last. Additionally, younger players who may quickly outgrow their baseball glove may not want to invest in a high end model.

The Feel: Make sure to choose a baseball glove that feels right for you. If the glove is uncomfortable, it may affect your performance in the field.

Your Age / Size of the Glove: Baseball gloves come in many different sizes made to fit different ages, positions and games (softball gloves). Gloves are measured by their "pattern size", a measurement from the heel of the glove (by your wrist) to the top of the glove on the palm side (near your fingers). Youth gloves range from 8" (very small) to about 12". Adult gloves usually fall in the 12"-13" range. Professional gloves are actually required by the rules to be no more than 12", although the rule is rarely to never enforced: Rule 1.14 ... "not more than twelve inches long, nor more than eight inches wide, measured from the base of the thumb crotch to the outer edge of the glove.."

Youths:

Youth baseball gloves should be chosen carefully - a common mistake is to buy a big glove for a little kid. This often results in a younger child with a huge glove on their hand that they can't even close. Youth sizes range from 9"-11". 8 year olds can often use 11" gloves, while teenagers often may fit into 12" gloves. Youth gloves should be supple in order for the child to effortlessly open and close the glove.

Types of Webs & Backs

Open Web: Preferred by Outfielders and Third Basemen

Closed Web: Preferred by Middle Infielders and Pitchers

Open & Closed Back: Individual Preference, though middle infielders like open back.

Gloves By Position:

Catchers Gloves: More of a mitten than a glove, they are heavily padded (needed when catching fastballs all game long) and are not used at any other position.

First Base Gloves: First basemen's gloves resemble a catchers mitt in that they are heavily padded (as first basemen spend their days catching balls thrown very hard). They are also longer in order to help the first basemen more easily field balls.

Infield Gloves: Infield gloves are smaller gloves (generally 10 1/2 " - 12") so that the fielder can easily pull the ball out of the glove and throw it. Too large of a glove would result in increased time needed to retrieve the ball and throw it to base - very important when a game can be decided by a tenth of a second.

Outfielders Gloves: Outfielders gloves are larger and longer (12" +), to provide fielders with the greatest possible advantage at catching fly balls.

Sizing Charts

Gloves

When properly adjusted, a glove should fit fairly snugly. Allow room for a batting glove. It is a good idea for most players to wear a batting glove inside their fielders glove to absorb moisture.

Age	Position	Glove Size
5-6	General	10 to 10 1/2 (youth model)
7-8	General	10 1/2 to 11 (youth model)
9-12	General	11 to 11 1/2 (youth model)
Junior/Senior	Infield	11 to 11 1/2
Junior/Senior	Outfield	12 to 12 1/2