

# Discount Sporting Goods: Four Ways to Save on Sports Equipment

Contributed by Webmaster  
Tuesday, 15 April 2008  
Last Updated Tuesday, 15 April 2008

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Skis, shoes, weights, helmets and other equipment all come with a high price tag, but you don't have to let the cost of sporting equipment keep you from enjoying the activities that you love. If you're passionate about a sport, there are plenty of ways that you can get the items that you need for low cost or no cost at all.

The first way to save money on sporting goods is to borrow it from friends or family. If you need skis for a weekend, see if you can borrow them from someone you know. Borrowing equipment works best if you are trying out an activity that you've never tried before or that you do infrequently. It can get annoying if you are constantly borrowing someone else's equipment, but it's an option if you really need some equipment in the short term.

If you decide that you need equipment too frequently to be able to borrow it, you can look at yard sales, Craigslist or online auctions to find equipment for low prices. When you go this route, you can sometimes find high quality equipment for bargain basement prices.

When you are buying used equipment, make sure to put it through its paces. Get on a treadmill and run on it. Assemble and disassemble each combination on a set of dumbbells. Bounce on the trampoline. Make sure that the equipment you are buying can stand up to normal wear and tear. This way you won't have any surprises when you get home and try to use the equipment.

Your other option for inexpensive sporting equipment is to be a smart shopper and look for equipment at discount stores. If you aren't a professional and only take part in activities casually, you can get by with cheaper brands with less quality construction.

Most mega-mart discount type stores carry good basic equipment for whatever activity you're interested in. But if you're an avid fisherman or bowler, for example, you'll want to pay more for higher quality equipment. You can do so without spending a whole lot of money by watching for sales at sporting goods stores. You can often find good deals at the beginning or end of the season. Watch for markdowns on your favorite items and snatch them up when you get the chance.

Sometimes the best way to save money on sporting goods is by investing in quality equipment. As counter-intuitive as that sounds, you'll pay less in the long run if you buy equipment that will last a long time. You can research and save for a major purchase, and then buy it only when it's offered in the store at a discount or online with a coupon code. When you buy something that will last you years (instead of equipment that will break in a few months) you're actually saving yourself money.

You should never let money stop you from trying something new or taking part in your favorite activity. By shopping carefully, paying attention to sales or saving up to purchase high-quality equipment, you can save money on sporting equipment of all kinds.

Jamie Jefferson writes for Momscape.com and Susies-Coupons.com, where she shares Backcountry coupons and Upside Over Coupons, specializing in outdoor gear for kids.

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