



## Fly Fishing Wading Equipment List - May, 2021

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Main thing to remember is if you are wading, you need to carry everything on your person - you are not going to go back to the bank to get a tackle box or other items. Please see the two sections below on warmwater fishing in Texas and trout fishing.

### Warmwater Fishing (bass/sunfish/carp/gaspergou) Stuff Needed for Wading

#### Required:

- TX fishing license (buy online or at sporting goods store)
- hemostats or pliers (hemostats preferred much smaller and lighter to carry)
- nippers or nail clippers
- 5-10 flies - fly shops can recommend which ones
- spool of 3x or 4x tippet (attaches to your leader)
- warmwater/bass leader (attaches to your fly line)
- polarized sunglasses (\$4 at Walmart in the fishing section) - essential for wading visibility and seeing fish
- sling pack, chest pack, fanny pack, or fishing vest to put all this stuff in
- 5 weight (usually but 3, 4 or 6 would also work) fly rod and reel with matching weight fly line spooled on it
- Nov through April only - breathable (preferred - or neoprene but they are quite hot for TX) waders and boots either attached or separate. Separate wading boots must be tried on with the waders, are more comfortable than booted waders, and are usually 1-2 sizes larger than normal shoe size to accommodate the neoprene bootie of the waders. Felt soled or boots with studs have the most secure grip on slippery rocks. Rubber soles will do. Wading belt usually included with waders and is worn for safety.
- May through October wet wading - boots/shoes in order of preference: Wading boots with felt soles or with studs, wading boots with rubber soles, hiking boots (old leather ones are ok), athletic-type water shoes or regular tennis shoes, sports sandals, regular \$10 water shoes. Flip flops will not work. Rocks and gravel in your feet will cut your day short.

#### Optional:

- May through October wet wading - neoprene wading socks with optional gravel guards to fill out your wading boots (if you have them) when not wearing waders.
- waterproof phone case or waterproof pack as you will drop your phone eventually or splash water on it - or don't take it on river
- tippet rings (small metal rings which extend the life of your leader and let you avoid having to tie double surgeon's knot to connect tippet to leader)
- zingers, carabiners, or a lanyard to attach your tools to your pack or around your neck (badge holder/lanyard with a ring works fine)
- backup warmwater/bass leader to carry in your pack in case it breaks off in a tree
- fly box - waterproof is best but I buy the regular ones which are cheaper

- wading staff and a separate purchase of tether with carabiner to clip it on to your belt loop or wading belt (Bass Pro Shop has a 40 dollar one) - not needed on some rivers
- sunglasses retainer (your glasses will fall in eventually)
- long-sleeve shirts for sun protection, hat, buff/gaiter (sun protection around neck also winter versions for warmth), long fishing/hiking pants in some locations even for wet wading as the minnows will nibble your legs and drive you crazy!

## Trout Fishing (Coldwater Fishing) Stuff Needed for Wading (Water temps on the Guadalupe River, TX usually mid 50's to 60's)

### Required:

- TX fishing license (buy online or at sporting goods stores)
- hemostats or pliers (hemostats preferred as smaller and lighter to carry)
- nippers or nail clippers
- 5 weight, 4 weight or 3 weight fly rod/reel with matching fly line weight spooled on the reel
- 10 or more trout flies from fly shop (beginners who have never nymphed should include a few streamers for when you get tired of fighting tangles in nymph rig)
- Strike indicators for nymphing (plastic ball ones are fine but I much prefer the yarn ones but they are hard to find - they tangle less)
- fly fishing split shot for nymph rigs - you pinch them on your line with hemostats
- spool of 4x or 5x tippet for trout. 6x also fine but hard to work with but more stealthy
- polarized sunglasses (\$4 at Walmart in the fishing section) - essential for wading visibility and seeing fish
- sling pack, chest pack, fanny pack or fishing vest to put all this stuff in/on
- breathable (preferred - or neoprene but they are quite hot for TX) waders and boots either attached or separate. Separate wading boots must be tried on with the waders, are more comfortable, and are usually 1-2 sizes larger than normal shoe size to accommodate the neoprene bootie of the waders. Felt soled or boots with studs have the most secure grip on slippery rocks. Rubber soles will do. Wading belt usually included with waders and is worn for safety.

### Optional:

- tippet rings - small metal rings which extend the life of your leader between tippet and leader and allow you to avoid tying the double surgeon's knot
- floatant (liquid) for dry flies, not needed for foam flies but needed for the feathery ones that are topwater/dries - easy to borrow from a friend
- trout net with the magnetic release/tether below or similar as you need both a magnetic hook on it and a way to clip onto your pack as well as a tether so when you drop it you don't lose it. I lost a brand new net in the Smokies within an hour without having a tether and just a magnet on it. Didn't even know I had lost it in the current. [Amazon link click here](#)
- accessories to clip nippers and hemostats to pack/vest or a lanyard around neck
- wading staff and a separate purchase of tether with carabiner to clip it on to your belt loop or wading belt (Bass Pro Shop has a 40 dollar one)
- backup trout leader to carry in your pack in case it breaks off in a tree
- fly box - waterproof is best but I buy the regular ones which are cheaper - I probably have 6 or so but you can start with 1
- magnifiers to clip on glasses - I like these: [Amazon link click here](#) if needed
- waterproof phone case or waterproof pack as you will drop your phone eventually or splash water on it - or don't take it on river
- sunglasses retainer (glasses will eventually fall in river)
- Leggings, long johns, fishing/hiking pants, or sweatpants to wear under waders. Jeans not recommended. Two layers needed in cold weather.
- Long warm socks to wear under waders
- Hat, buff/gaiter (sun protection around neck also winter versions for warmth)
- Rainjacket/waterproof coat