

Mens Hiking Shoes: Types | Components | Buying Tips

Are you looking to buy your first pair of mens hiking shoes in NZ but need help determining what would be the best pick? No worries; this detailed blog on hiking shoes can be of great help!

Choosing the right pair of hiking shoes can be undeniably challenging, especially when you are unaware of the types and fits of hiking shoes available. To help you make the right choice, we have come up with this blog that enlists the types, shoe components, and buying tips associated with men's hiking footwear.

Making the right choice of hiking shoes entirely depends on the hiking purpose, terrain, shoe weight, and flexibility just like how buying the right [head torch in NZ](#) depends on its weight, waterproofing ability, number of light settings, and maximum battery life.

Read on to find the different types and components of men's hiking shoes along with some effective buying tips to make an informed pick.

Types Of Men's Hiking Shoes

- **Hiking Boots:** Boot models with comfortable and flexible midsoles are excellent footwear options for hiking on tricky terrains. Even lightweight trail-running shoes are a good choice for long-distance hikes.
- **Day Hiking Boots:** These mid to high-cut hiking boot models are an ideal fit for day hikes and ultralight short backpacking trips. They are usually bigger than normal hiking shoes, incorporating waterproof features to keep the feet dry and warm during extreme weather conditions.
- **Backpacking Boots:** Are you looking to buy a pair of mens hiking shoes in NZ that can suit on or off-trail travel? Backpacking boots can be a perfect pick! These hiking shoes are specifically designed to carry heavy loads on multi-day hiking trips.
- **Mountaineering Boots:** These hiking shoes are specially crafted to be used on elevated surfaces like ice, glaciers, rocks, and crevasses. Most of them come with thick soles, robust fabrics, and a good grip. So, if you are a mountaineering enthusiast, frequently heading out to hike on the tricky terrains of NZ mountains, a mountaineering boot is a must-have hiking essential for you!

Components of Hiking Shoes

Hiking Shoe Uppers

- **Leather:** Leather hiking shoes are usually made up of full-grain, split-grain, or nubuck leather. All of these leather shoes are breathable and lightweight, offering high durability, abrasion resistance, and waterproofness. They are also fairly flexible and don't easily break in.
- **Synthetics:** Modern hiking shoes are commonly made from synthetic materials like nylon and polyester. This makes them dry faster, cost lesser, and weigh lighter than leather shoes.
- **Waterproof Membranes:** Hiking shoes made from waterproof or breathable membranes are great footwear options to be worn in wet conditions. They keep the feet dry and warm even in extreme weather conditions like downpours and torrents.

Hiking Shoe Midsoles

- **EVA:** Built with an excellent cushion, EVA midsoles are much lighter and less expensive than other midsole materials.
- **Polyurethane:** It is usually used in crafting midsoles of backpacking and mountaineering shoes since it is one of the firmest and most durable midsole materials.

Hiking Shoe Outsoles

- **Lug Pattern:** Lugs are the traction-giving bumps on hiking shoe outsoles. The deeper and thicker the lugs are, the more will be the grip in the hiking shoe.
- **Heel Brake:** It is the heel zone that protects the feet from sliding down the slopes while hiking on steep descents.

Now that you know the components in detail, let's delve into the effective buying tips associated with men's hiking shoes.

Buying Tips For Hiking Shoes

If you are looking to buy one of the best pairs of [mens hiking shoes in NZ](#), here are some essential tips to bear in mind:

- **Look out for a good grip:** Always consider buying a pair of hiking shoes that feature a good grip since only good-grip shoes can hold you well on the ground no matter how tricky the terrain is.
- **Check for sole flexibility:** It's essential to choose a hiking shoe that offers great flexibility and optimal softness. A hiking shoe with exceptional adaptability can help you walk on uneven terrains with ease.
- **Check for ankle support:** Hiking on rough terrains usually possess risks of ankle injuries. The best way to avoid them is by wearing a pair of hiking shoes that offers good ankle support.

Hopefully, this article helped you learn the different types and components of hiking shoes. You may check out Dwights' expansive collection of camping and hiking essentials to avail of a premium-quality and affordably-priced hiking shoe, tent, backpack, or head torch in NZ!