

Rods and Reels for Beginners

Often, rods and reels are sold together and called a combo. Combos pair the appropriate rod and reel together. There are two reel types that are good for beginner anglers — spincasting and spinning.

REELS

The **spincast or closed-faced reel** is an easy tangle free option great for kids and beginner anglers. The release button is used to release the line when casting. The reel handle stops the line from being released and brings the line back in, and the drag adjustments controls the tension on the line.



The **spinning reel** is another popular option for beginner anglers. The spinning reel is an open-faced reel and allows the line to come off the spool quickly. To release line, you open the bail, the reel handle closes the bail and brings the line back in, and the drag controls the tension on the line.



BEGINNER ANGLER TIP

To keep your reel in top working condition make sure to never lay it down on the ground where it can get dirt inside.

RODS

Rods come in many lengths, actions (where the rod bends also known as rod power), and line and lure weight ratings. This information is printed on the side of the rod and describes the characteristics of the rod. Pre-packaged rod and reel combinations can be ideal for the beginner angler.

When selecting a rod, young children will require a shorter length, while adults will prefer a rod in the six to seven foot range. Your local bait and tackle shop can help you select the correct rod for the type of fishing you will be doing.

The action of the rod describes how much “bend” or how stiff the rod is. A heavy action rod has very little bend and is intended for large fish or using heavy lures or larger bait. A light action rod is for using small lures or bait and when targeting small fish like bluegill or trout.

