



Buying a New Glove

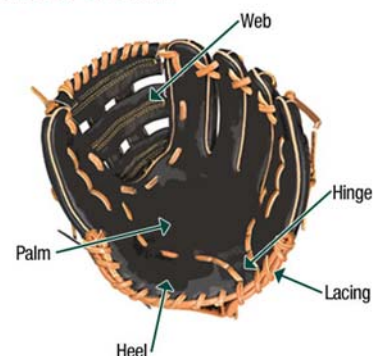
With Christmas around the corner, there's quite a number of baseball/softball gifts to consider buying. Why not consider purchasing a new glove that will surely put a smile on the face of your young player. There are few pieces of sports equipment as cherished as a glove, especially after it has been broken in by players from the youth leagues all the way to the professional level.

When selecting a glove for your young athlete, there are a few considerations to take into account to ensure safety and high performance. One of the most important things to consider is choosing a glove that is the correct size and the right glove for the player's position.

GLOVE SIZING

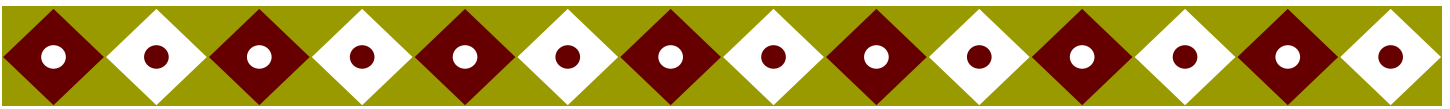
Gloves are measured by starting at the top of the index finger of the glove and measuring down the finger, along the inside of the pocket and then out to the heel of the glove. Most gloves have the pre-measured size stamped inside where the pocket is.

PARTS OF THE GLOVE



BASEBALL GLOVE SIZING CHART (PROVIDED BY SPORTS AUTHORITY)

Level	Age	Position	Glove Size
T-Ball	3 to 6 years old	All Positions	8.5"-10"
Youth	7 to 12 years old	1st Base	11.5"-12"
Youth	7 to 12 years old	Infield	10.25"-11.5"
Youth	7 to 12 years old	Outfield	11.5"-12.25"
Adult	12+ years old	1st Base	12"-13"
Adult	12+ years old	Infield	11.25"-12"
Adult	12+ years old	Outfield	12"-12.75"



SOFTBALL GLOVE SIZING CHART (PROVIDED BY SPORTS AUTHORITY)

Level	Type	Position	Glove Size
Youth	Fastpitch	Infield	10.5"-11"
Youth	Fastpitch	Outfield	11"-11.5"
Adult	Fastpitch	Infield	11.5"-12"
Adult	Fastpitch	Outfield/1st Base	12"-13"
Adult	Slowpitch	Infield	12"-13"
Adult	Slowpitch	Outfield	12.5"-14"

SELECTING A GLOVE BY POSITION (Provided by Rawlings Gear)

In order for your young athlete to achieve his/her ultimate potential, choose a glove that's appropriate for their position on the field.

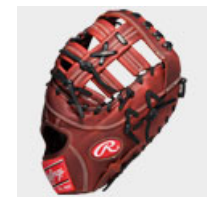
Catcher's Glove or Mitt

- Is a fingerless mitt (does not have individual fingers)
- Has heavy padding to reduce the sting from the pitcher's throw
- Is reinforced to withstand heavy use throughout a game



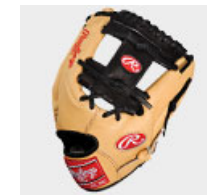
First Base Baseball Glove

- Has less padding than the catcher's mitt
- Is longer to help the first baseman reach, scoop and catch throws from infielders
- Has a shallow pocket that allows the first baseman to quickly retrieve the ball from the mitt.



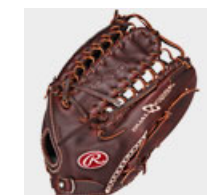
Infield Baseball Glove

- A five-fingered glove with a shallow pocket
- Softball infielder gloves have a deeper pocket to accept the bigger ball
- Second basemen need a smaller glove to help make quick throws while still having control
- Shortstops use something in the middle for grounders and quick throws
- Third basemen need a larger glove



Outfield Baseball Glove

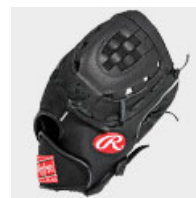
- Has a deeper pocket to handle balls hit high in the air
- Has a longer length to give as much reach as possible





Pitcher's Baseball Glove

- Can be any size (just make sure it's comfortable on your hand)
- Has a closed web to hide the ball and pitcher's hand
- Sometimes has a finger hood to conceal the index finger
- Popular web styles for pitchers: Basket, Basket Connector, Two Piece Solid and Modified Trap-eze



Softball Gloves

- Generally larger both in the pocket and in length to help players handle the larger ball
- If you play both baseball and softball and only want to buy one glove, select a softball glove



FIT, FEEL & STYLE

Although selecting the correct glove for your specific needs depends on such critical factors as your age and field position, it also depends on your personal preferences. The following are simple guidelines to follow:

- **Fit:** Choose a glove that fits fairly snug. Be careful not to purchase a glove too big for your hand, as it could hinder player performance.
- **Feel:** Your glove should be stiff enough to give strength, yet offer the flexibility to provide control and agility.
- **Style:** Choose a look and color that fits you while making sure the web pattern is right for your position.

GLOVE MAINTENANCE

Properly caring for your glove can make an enormous difference in the lifespan of the glove. Here are some helpful hints:

- Keep your glove in a cool, dry place when it is not in use.
- If your glove gets wet, dry it with a towel and let it air-dry.
- Do not over oil your glove, a couple of times each season is appropriate.
- Keep the glove laces tight.



Baseball and softball are America's games. If a friend or family member is a baseball or softball fanatic, you're in luck, because come Christmas time, there will be a myriad of options available for choosing a present, such as a new glove.