

Southeastern Divers, Inc.

908-A Bob Wallace Ave. Huntsville

Tips for your Open Water SCUBA Class

This sheet of tips are suggestions from both our Instructors and former students and are intended to help you get the most out of your SCUBA training. They are not requirements for the class but are highly recommended.

1. Purchase equipment that is designed and intended for SCUBA diving. What you see in the sporting goods/discount stores is not. What you see there is intended for snorkeling and not the rigors of SCUBA diving.
2. Purchase equipment that fits and works for you. Our number one instructor complaint is when students show up with equipment that doesn't fit or is inappropriate for SCUBA diving. Just because it fits your 12 year old niece doesn't mean it will fit you! The majority of the problems students encounter in learning to dive are caused by this problem alone.
3. Purchase your gear from SDI. You will have quick convenient access to exchange equipment during your class if necessary.
4. Purchase a mesh equipment bag to carry all your gear in. In addition to your personal equipment you are also going to be carrying a wetsuit, BCD, and regulator. The bag is very useful and saves a lot of work.
5. Purchase a small bottle of mask defog. Your instructor will explain how to use it and a bottle will last for many, many dives. Very small investment.
6. This one is especially for the ladies. Add a neoprene, Velcro adjustable mask strap to your mask. This will almost totally prevent the hair tangles normally associated with rubber mask straps. Actually most men like them as well since they are easier to adjust and more comfortable to wear. Minimal cost on this as well.
7. Gloves might be considered necessary equipment depending on the time of year you will be doing your open water dives, however most divers wear gloves every time they dive for general hand protection. Consider adding a pair to your bag. Skin becomes soft after being submerged for a while.
8. For the times of the year when your open water dives may occur in cooler water you may want to consider a thin wetsuit of your own to wear under the suit SDI provides. This suit is also a great suit for Caribbean/Florida/summertime diving and the cost is minimal.
9. Consider purchasing your own equipment for your class. Every instructor we have agrees that it would be in the students best interest to learn to dive in the equipment they will be diving in. (Makes sense doesn't it?)