

DIY Hiking Stick Checklist

Print or save this checklist to source, carve, treat, and maintain your custom wooden hiking staff.



1 Before Choosing the Wood

- ☐ Confirm ownership or written/clear permission.
- ☐ Identify whether the wood is green, seasoned or kiln-dried.
- ☐ Reject deep cracks, rot, soft spots and major insect damage.
- ☐ Avoid unknown treated, painted or contaminated wood.
- ☐ Choose a length and grip diameter that leave room for adjustment.

2 Before Shaping

- ☐ Read the instructions for every tool.
- ☐ Secure the workpiece on a stable surface.
- ☐ Mark a temporary grip and leave extra length.
- ☐ Decide whether the bark will remain.
- ☐ Plan the bottom tip before thinning the shaft.

3 Before Finishing

- ☐ Confirm that green wood has dried and stabilized.
- ☐ Remove sharp edges, splinters and sanding marks.
- ☐ Test-fit the ferrule or trail tip.
- ☐ Remove sanding dust safely.
- ☐ Read the finish label for ventilation, application and cure times.

4 Before the First Hike

- ☐ Check the shaft from end to end.
- ☐ Confirm that the tip cannot rotate or pull away easily.
- ☐ Make sure the finish is fully cured.
- ☐ Test the grip with the intended footwear and pack.
- ☐ Complete a short local walk before depending on the stick farther from help.

5 After Each Hike

- ☐ Remove mud and grit.
- ☐ Dry the stick away from heaters and direct high heat.
- ☐ Look for fresh cracks, splinters and soft areas.
- ☐ Check the ferrule tread and fit.
- ☐ Repair the finish or retire the stick when damage affects the shaft.

Stick Specifications & Build Log

WOOD TYPE & DETAILS

Wood species (Oak, Hickory, Ash), source, harvest date, seasoning time, carving notes...

DIMENSIONS & FINISH

Total Length _____

Grip Diameter _____

Finish Type (Oil/Poly) _____

TIP & HARDWARE

Tip / Ferrule Type _____

Wrist Lanyard Fit _____

Trail Tested Status _____