

Best Ice Climbing Gloves

by Dalphyne Peterz | Dec 11, 2019 | Transfer Complete, wilderness today.com | 0 comments

If you're an ice climbing enthusiast, you're probably familiar with the "screaming barfies" — a strange condition that happens when your hands or feet warm up after a period of freezing up. And true to its name, it's not fun. When you experience this sensation, you want to scream, then barf, and repeat. But all this can be avoided with the best ice climbing gloves.

You're more likely to experience the "screaming barfies" or "hot aches" when you're wearing ill-fitting gloves that restrict blood flow to your hands or a low-quality pair of gloves that don't warm you up enough. So, before you head out for your next adventure, make sure you have the best ice climbing gloves. It's an investment you'll be glad you made.

Before You Reach for Your Wallet

Finding the best ice climbing gloves is easier said than done. There are a plethora of options to choose from, and each comes with different features that make the selection even more challenging.

But if you know what to look for, finding a pair that suits your environment and activity should be a breeze. Here are some of the crucial factors to consider.

Dave MacLeod's Guide To Winter Gloves



Thick or thin?

When it comes to keeping your hands warm, it seems like the obvious choice is to go for a thick pair of gloves. But the choice between thick and thin gloves isn't that simple.

If you're climbing steep mixed routes, it will require more energy for you to hold on to your **ice climbing** tools in thick gloves. And while thin gloves give you an easy grip, they're not warm enough and can easily cause the "hot aches."

So, what's the solution? The best thing you can do is to strike a balance.

Go for a pair of climbing gloves that have a thicker layer of insulation at the back compared to the front. Since the layer of skin at the back of your hand is thinner compared to the front, it's more sensitive to the cold.

With this kind of design, you'll not compromise on either dexterity or warmth.

Fit and why it matters

The best ice climbing gloves also have a perfect fit. Most people go for tight-fitting gloves to avoid excess fabric from protruding beyond the fingers because it may affect dexterity.

However, this shouldn't be the case. Tight gloves can restrict blood flow when you close your hand onto the ice tools, which may cause "hot aches" when blood flows back to that area after a prolonged period of freezing.

Therefore, make sure you test the fit of the gloves before you purchase them. Wear the gloves and try holding on to something to get a feel of the comfort and ensure there isn't too much space in the wrist area that may interfere with insulation.

The most important consideration

Ice climbing involves dealing with wet ropes covered in sticky snow. And even in cold, dry conditions, the continuous sliding of ropes through your hands will melt the snow and eventually cause it to soak into your gloves.

For this reason, you need to ensure your gloves are waterproof. In addition to this, go for a breathable pair. This feature guarantees a temperature and humidity gradient that prevents moisture from getting through.

Dexterity

Apart from going for a pair of gloves with a thicker back compared to the front, several other features can improve the dexterity of your gloves.

One of the notable features that improve dexterity is stretchy fabrics in the leather palm area. This design enhances your grip. Also, be on the lookout for gloves that feature articulated and pre-curved fingers. Such gloves make it easier for you to maintain a firm grip because you don't have to move your fingers too much.

Get value for your money

In your search for the best ice climbing gloves, you should also keep an eye on gloves made using high-quality materials. The ice climbing conditions and nature of the hardware used can quickly take a toll on your gloves.

Therefore, you need a pair that will last you a long time. Leather is the most durable material. However, certain factors enhance the gloves' lifespan. These include double-stitching, inserts in the palm area, and around the fingers, and use of higher-denier materials.

Our Selection Process

Even with the right information on what to look for, identifying the best ice climbing gloves can still be a tall order. Fortunately, we are here to help. We did the legwork for you and identified the top options on the market.

We relied on expert and user recommendations to identify the top contenders. Next, we evaluated the options paying close attention to dexterity, durability, waterproofing, and overall protection of the gloves. We then narrowed down our list keeping only the choices we believe would give you the most value for your money.

The Best Ice Climbing Gloves for the Money

After hours of research, we managed to come up with a list of 10 of the best ice climbing gloves. Let's get this show on the road!

1. Petzl CORDEX PLUS Gloves

Ill-fitting gloves can make it impossible for you to belay and rappel with ease. But you won't have this problem with the [Petzl CORDEX PLUS Gloves](#). These gloves are among the best ice climbing gloves because they have an ergonomic cut that offers a high level of dexterity without being too tight.

The gloves are also medium-weight, thereby making it easy for you to master a superior grip. Not to mention, they have a leather fabric in high-wear areas like palms, fingertips, and between the thumb and index finger. For this reason, you can rest assured they'll last you a couple of seasons.

We also love that the gloves are breathable and feature a built-in carabiner hole that allows you to attach the gloves to your harness for added security.

2. Addbuty Winter Gloves

The [Addbuty Winter Gloves](#) are perfect for both men and women. The gloves come in different sizes and have a zipper at the back that allows you to adjust the fit to your liking.

You'll also not have to worry about freezing fingers with these gloves. They feature an inner soft fleece fabric and an outer waterproof material to ensure your hands are

warm and dry.

The gloves also offer superior grip thanks to the antiskid silica particles used to line the palms. Not to mention, the gloves' fingertips have touchscreen capability that ensures you stay in touch with the digital world without compromising on warmth.

3. Black Diamond Terminator Gloves

The **Black Diamond** Terminator Gloves are lightweight, durable ice climbing gloves that can withstand even the roughest conditions.

These gloves feature a waterproof dry insert and a woven nylon shell with four-way stretch to ensure you have a firm grip every step of the way. Furthermore, the gloves have goat-leather palms and capped fingers for enhanced durability.

And for additional warmth, the gloves feature velcro closure to keep the wind at bay. They have a simple design, but they get the job done.

4. Black Diamond Crag Climbing Gloves

Another excellent option from Black Diamond is the Black Diamond **Crag Climbing Gloves**. These gloves offer your maximum protection without compromising dexterity.

One of the things we love about these gloves is the fact that the padding is on the knuckles. This feature creates insulation where it's needed, thus not interfering with dexterity. The palm area is made of leather, which offers superior grip and enhances durability.

The attention to detail is also worth mentioning Black Diamond incorporated reinforced indexes in the fingers and a finger and thumb crotch for enhanced durability. What's more, they added a hook-and-loop cuff closure to ensure wind or snow has no access.

5. Arc'teryx Alpha SL Glove

When it comes to the best ice climbing gloves in 2020, the **Arc'teryx** Alpha SL Glove is a serious contender.

Unlike most gloves on the market, this glove features a thin insulation layer throughout, which gives it a slimmer profile. Not to mention, it has a pre-curved shape that mimics the shape of your hand when you're holding on to a climbing tool.

As a result, you don't have to squish the glove too much, and you can rest assured there won't be any blood flow restriction to your fingers.

The gloves are also made to last. They feature leather materials in all the easy-to-wear areas like fingertips and palms for extended durability.

6. BOffer Snow Gloves

The **BOffer Snow Gloves** are the best ice climbing gloves for extremely cold conditions. The gloves feature windproof polyester, waterproof TPU, and insulate Thinsulate for maximum protection against the elements.

Furthermore, these gloves have moisture-wicking and air circulation capabilities that ensure your hands remain dry even in dry weather conditions that may cause your hands to sweat. The palms also feature anti-slip PU leather that gives you a firm grip.

And with the adjustable wrist strap and long cuffs, you won't have to worry about wind getting into your gloves through the wrist.

7. Hi Clasmix Winter Cold Weather Gloves

If you don't like compromising on style, the [Hi Clasmix Winter Cold Weather Gloves](#) may be the best ice climbing gloves for you. These gloves have a unique design that instantly stands out. Not to mention, they come in several colors, so it's easy to find a pair that complements your style.

But these gloves offer more than stunning looks. For one, they provide exceptional warmth. The gloves have a fleece lining material, they're windproof, and water-resistant, thereby guaranteeing comfort.

Not to mention, they have a zippered closure at the back that allows you to customize your fit. What's more, the gloves have touchscreen capability, which means you can use your mobile devices without removing the gloves.

8. RAB Guide Glove

If your goal is to keep your hands warm, but you still need flexible movement, the [RAB Guide Gloves](#) may be the best ice climbing gloves for you.

Thanks to the Matrix DWS outer fabric and the insulation at the back of the gloves, you will enjoy both warmth and a high level of dexterity. The gloves also feature high-quality leather material on the palms that offer superior grip.

These gloves also have a drawstring closure that keeps them securely in place. Not to mention, the gloves are waterproof, so you don't have to worry about getting your hands wet on the climb.

9. Outdoor Research Extravert Gloves

The [Outdoor Research Extravert Gloves](#) are also among the best lightweight options. These gloves offer a thin layer of insulation without compromising on the level of dexterity.

The gloves are made of high-quality goat leather in the palm and offer an excellent grip. What's more, they're waterproof and water-resistant, making them a suitable choice for the cold winter weather.

And you won't have to worry about the gloves slipping off because they feature a cuff closure on the wrist.

10. Intra-FIT Climbing Gloves

The [Intra-FIT Climbing Gloves](#) provide an excellent balance between dexterity and durability. These gloves feature goat-leather with stretchable spandex for improved

dexterity.

Furthermore, the fingers are curved to enhance your grip. We also like that the gloves are breathable. Breathability prevents overheating. This can be quite uncomfortable, especially when you're climbing steep routes.

Another feature worth mentioning is the built-in carabiner hole on the cuff. This feature allows you to attach your gloves to your harness for additional protection.

Safe Climbing

Ultimately, the best ice climbing gloves will depend on your personal preferences. Some people are okay with having thick gloves even if it interferes with dexterity, and others prefer prioritizing dexterity. It's all up to you. However, if you can get the best of both worlds, your experience would be so much better. So take the time to explore your options to ensure you choose the best pair for your needs.

Did you find the best ice climbing gloves on this list? Have you used any of the gloves we have mentioned?

If so, did they live up to your expectations? Please share your thoughts and views with us in the comments section below. We love hearing from our readers.

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