
SHOES

A better flip-flop

For all of you who spend the summer in those Brazilian flip-flops, we understand why. The rubber straps don't eat at your feet, the foamy sole offers the right amount of squish, the price is certainly right and the surfeit of colours mean you'll always find a pair to match any outfit.

But who's kidding who, they're not exactly superheroes when it comes to support.

Enter Chaco flip-flops. They are the only sandals approved by the American Podiatric Medical Association.

They have also been given the seal of approval by Ron White, the face behind the Foot Shoppe, a mini empire with locations across Ontario.

Chaco, a Colorado-based company, is available throughout Canada at Mountain Equipment Co-op and other sporty or campy retailers. But White's endorsement means that the flip-flops have now penetrated the fashion market.

Still, their main objective is to defy flimsiness. The durable Vibram sole is a good place to start. From there, a heel cradle ensures that the foot doesn't move around too much.

They are antibacterial and hypoallergenic, not to mention washable, so you're safeguarded against summer stinkers.

The Flipside "Flip" (\$65), one of several styles, has a surfer-meets-preppy sensibility because of the striped webbing and beach appropriate design.

Best of all, they don't flip and flop too much. Because there's soul music and sole music and only one can support dancing feet.

Visit www.ronwhite.ca and www.mec.ca for more information.

» Amy Verner



The Flipside "Flip," \$65.