

Iverson Outdoors Inc.
Snowshoe Buyers Guide
www.iversonssnowshoes.com



*Products as rugged and beautiful
as the places they take you.*

Introduction

Selecting the right snowshoe involves balancing tradeoff between maneuverability and flotation. Flotation needs vary by the snow conditions you plan to encounter most frequently while maneuverability needs depend on the type of terrain and cover you expect to encounter.

Flotation and Snow Conditions

Snow density changes based on conditions and the time of the season. Fresh snowfalls and cold temperatures tend to make for snow that has low density or is “fluffy”. In these conditions, a high flotation shoe is the best choice to prevent sinking into the powder. In warmer temperatures or as snow settles over time it tends to densify and requires less flotation. Our snowshoes carry weight ratings which indicate flotation in moderately settled snowpack common to wooded terrain in the upper Midwest. If you expect to travel in deep or fluffy snow it would be a good idea to get a shoe with a higher capacity than you are expecting to put on the shoe. If you expect to travel in packed or settled snow conditions, such as on well-traveled trails or in areas that don’t get a lot of snow-fall you will be able to get by with a snowshoe of a lighter capacity.

Some of our models feature a steeply upturned toe (Alaskan, Ojibwa, and Tundra) while some feature a slightly upturned toe (Cross Country, Green Mountain and Michigan). The steep toed models will offer an advantage in fluffy snow, particularly when breaking trail.

Maneuverability and Stride

Our full line of snowshoes covers a range of tradeoffs between flotation and maneuverability so you can find a pair suitable for any application. Of course you can also purchase multiple pairs for multiple applications.

Snowshoes vary between long and narrow and short and wide.

A longer shoe allows for a narrower frame with equal flotation and models like the Cross Country and Alaskan are great shoes for cruising. The long narrow frame makes for a comfortable stride and good flotation but can be tricky to turn around in, particularly if you are in dense brush cover.

A shorter snowshoe requires greater width to get the equivalent flotation. Models like the Modified Bear Paw are have great flotation which makes them a good choice for maneuvering in thick cover but require a wider stance so are not quite as good for long distance travel.

The Green Mountain, Michigan, and Ojibwa models are great all-around snowshoes and offer a balance between mobility and flotation. These snowshoes perform reasonably well in a range of snow conditions

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and cover types and are a good choice if you expect variation in your adventures. The Green Mountain is our most popular recreational snowshoe and really shines on packed trails or moderately dense snow and can easily handle sharp turns. The Michigan and Ojibwa models take more effort and can't handle really tight turns but offer a little more flotation and are a great fit for back-country or off-trail use.

Material Selection

We offer traditional rawhide or more modern neoprene-laced snowshoes. The tradeoffs between the two are cost, aesthetics, and maintenance. We like to say that our products are as rugged and beautiful as the places they take you. Our rawhide shoes lean toward the beautiful while the neoprene leans toward the rugged. Both will give you years of service if properly cared for. The rawhide shoes will require periodic touch-ups with marine grade spar varnish or polyurethane to keep water out. When they are past just a touch-up we do also offer a full re-dipping service to restore your snowshoes to a like-new finish. Call the shop at 906-452-6370 for prices and timing estimates. The neoprene shoes aren't nearly as nice to look at as the rawhide ones but are maintenance free aside from a touch up with marine grade spar varnish or polyurethane on the frame every now and then.

Most of our bindings come in either leather or neoprene models. Similar to rawhide vs neoprene for weaving, the tradeoff is mostly aesthetic. The leather bindings complement the beauty of the rawhide shoes well but both work equally as well.

Care and Maintenance Instructions

The most common way that snowshoes are broken is through "bridging", for example when one or both ends are supported on a branch or rock and all of the weight of the user is on the shoe. Snowshoes are made to displace weight rather than carry it so bridging will often cause a breakage in the wood frame.

It is a good idea to periodically inspect your snowshoes for wear on the finish. We use a marine grade spar varnish that you can generally pick up from your local hardware store. Touchups on rawhide snowshoes are most important since wet rawhide will stretch and ultimately break. We recommend looking over the rawhide at least at the beginning and end of the season and more frequently if you plan to travel in abrasive 'grainy' snow which will wear through the finish more quickly or in temperatures above freezing when you are likely to run into puddles or wet areas which will soften the rawhide. On the neoprene shoes, touchups on the frame will keep your snowshoes looking good but they are otherwise maintenance free.

A Few Comments on Weight Ratings

Determination of weight ratings is a bit of an art and based on a number of factors that vary quite a bit. Flotation of snowshoes varies depending on snow conditions and a few other factors. Putting a heavier load than the rating of the snowshoe will not cause it to break but will cause it to sink into the snow deeper than it would otherwise. In fresh and fluffy snow this additional sinking may be noticeable but in settled snow the additional sinking will generally be minimal. The additional sinking may or may not result in extra difficulty in travel. That depends on how much over capacity the user is and how fluffy the snow is. That is all to say the ratings are guidelines and worth paying attention to but not absolute determinants of effectiveness depending on a number of factors.

Individual Model Descriptions

Green Mountain

Dimensions: 9" X 30" Weight Capacity: 175 lbs

Dimensions: 10" X 36" Weight Capacity: 220 lbs

Dimensions: 12" X 44" Weight Capacity: 300 lbs

The Green Mountain our most popular snowshoe and is great for recreational use. This model has a rounded toe and heel which allows high maneuverability and these snowshoes can turn on a dime. The compact frame is lightweight and easy for walking on established trails and also are easy to transport in the car to and from the trail. The rounded tail does not glide as well as the tapered tail on other models and the compact frame reduces the flotation some so it not optimal for breaking trails or back-country adventure but this is a great choice for the snowshoer who likes to heads out to the local trail or out in the back woods whether daily or occasionally.



Modified Bear Paw

Dimensions: 12" X 35" Weight Capacity: 170 lbs

Dimensions: 13" X 35" Weight Capacity: 220 lbs

The Modified Bear Paw has a wide profile with excellent flotation, and maneuverability. This model is popular among rabbit hunters, trappers, and anyone planning to spend their time walking through cover found in low areas, swamps, and frozen wetlands. The wide profile of this shoe requires a wider stance so it is not the best choice for long walks cruising in the open country but if you expect to be in wooded conditions with brush and other obstacles then the tradeoff between comfort and flotation makes this the snowshoe for you.



Cross Country

Dimensions: 10" X 40" Weight Capacity: 220 lbs

Dimensions: 10" X 46" Weight Capacity: 230 lbs

The Cross Country is very popular among foresters and those who head into the back-country with a light load of gear. This model's narrow profile makes for a comfortable stride while the length and slightly up-turned toe provide good flotation in deep snow. The conventional tapered tail glides during stride which is good for longer walks but is less maneuverable than shorter models like the Modified Bear Paw or Green Mountain. If you are planning for mostly longer walks in relatively open country and/or expect powdery deep snow then this is a great choice.



Alaskan

Dimensions: 10" X 56" Weight Capacity: 250 lbs

Dimensions: 12" X 60" Weight Capacity: 300 lbs

The Alaskan offers great flotation and has an up-turned toe making it a workhorse in deep snow whether you are cruising in open country or mature forests. This is an excellent backcountry adventure snowshoe that can take you and your gear anywhere that gets a lot of snow.



Tundra

Dimensions: 10" X 72" Weight Capacity: 300 lbs

The Tundra is the ultimate cruising snowshoe that can take you and all your gear off to the horizon in deepest snow conditions. The narrow 10" frame and tapered tail make for a comfortable stride while the long profile provides exceptional flotation. The steep upturned toe breaks trail with ease.



Michigan

Dimensions: 12" X 46" Weight Capacity: 240 lbs

Dimensions: 13" X 46" Weight Capacity: 250 lbs

The Michigan is a great all-around snowshoe offering a nice tradeoff between maneuverability and flotation. This model is a good choice for navigating open hardwoods found in the upper great lakes region or any other mature forests. Both sizes offer enough flotation to accommodate a reasonable load of gear for back-country adventure or winter camping. This model has a tapered tail which glides for a comfortable stride and a moderately up-turned toe that performs best in settled snow but can handle deep fluffy snow as well.



Ojibwa

Dimensions: 11" X 56" Weight Capacity: 250 lbs

Dimensions: 12" X 60" Weight Capacity: 300 lbs

The Ojibwa is a great all-around snowshoe and offers a true traditional look inspired by designs that have been used for centuries. This model has great flotation, excellent side-slope stability and is an excellent choice for mixed terrain and cover. While the length of this shoe can limit maneuverability in thick cover, the pointed tip and up-turned toe make this shoe well suited for breaking trail or cruising in cover.



Snowmate

Dimensions: 7" X 30" Weight Capacity: 100 lbs

The Snowmate is designed for youth snowshoers and young aspiring adventurers. A compact and lightweight 7 X 30 inch frame is easy for little legs to manage as they explore the back yard or head out on the trail with the family. This model comes standard with a pair of Iverson A bindings so is ready to go right out of the box. We hear from customers all the time that they have been happily using their Iverson Snowshoes for decades but an upgrade will likely be necessary for Snowmate users.



Racer

Dimensions: 9" X 32" Weight Capacity: 150 lbs

As the name suggests, this model was specifically developed for snowshoe racers. The compact 9 X 32 inch frame also makes it a possible choice for teenagers or those blessed with fast metabolism or better than average will-power at the dessert tray. This model is best suited for lower snow depths, packed trails, or dense snow – and racing of course.



Advantage

Dimensions: 10" X 32" Weight Capacity: 160 lbs

The Advantage is a slightly wider version of the Racer and also is a compact and maneuverable snowshoe with a tailed profile for smooth gliding and straight tracking. As with the Racer, this is also a good choice for teenagers or others below the rated weight capacity. This model is best suited for lower snow depths, packed trails or dense snow.



Bindings

We offer bindings separately from all models of our snowshoes except the Snowmate since everyone has their own preference.

Iverson A

This is our most popular binding for boots up to men's size 9

Iverson AA

This is our most popular model for boots in men's sizes 10 and above. This model offers a footbed that wraps around the boot with a spring buckled shoelaced-style strap over the arch of the foot and spring buckled heel strap that is simple and efficient to get on and off.

Iverson EZ

This is a modified version of the A and AA with a similar styled footbed but further simplified with two easy (or EZ if you wish) spring buckled straps across the arch of the foot plus a spring buckled heel strap.

Iverson H and XL-H

These models get their name from how the binding looks laid on the ground before installation. They are a traditional style which offers a very secure connection between the boot and snowshoe with minimal lateral movement. The stability of the Iverson H comes at the expense of some need for adjustment. The neoprene model uses tab buckles. The leather model uses spring buckles. The H and XL-H are popular among those who work in the woods and are a great choices if you expect a long walk through moderately rugged conditions.

Model	Size and Weight Capacity (Flotation)	Maneuverability	Stride	Glide	Applications
Green Mountain	9X30 - 175 lbs	5	5	3	Recreational use packed trails or settled snow
	10X36 - 220 lbs	5	5	3	
	12X44 - 300 lbs	5	3	3	
Modified Bear Paw	12X35 - 170 lbs	4	3	5	Traveling in cover and brush or areas with likely obstacles
	13X35 - 220 lbs	4	3	5	
Cross Country	10X40 - 220 lbs	3	5	5	Cruising open country or mature forests
	10X46 - 230 lbs	3	5	4	
Michigan	12X46 - 240 lbs	3	3	5	All-around use, open country, back country, mature forests
	13X46 - 250 lbs	3	3	5	
Alaskan	10X56 – 250 lbs	2	5	5	Cruising open country or mature forests. High flotation supports snowshoer and their gear
	12X60 – 300 lbs	2	4	4	
Ojibwa	11X56 – 250 lbs	3	3	5	All-around use, open country, back country, mature forests. High flotation supports snowshoer and their gear
	12X60 – 300 lbs	3	3	5	
Advantage	10X32 – 160 lbs	4	5	5	All around use for individuals within the weight rating.
Racer	9X32 – 150 lbs	4	5	5	All around use for individuals within the weight rating
Tundra	10X72 – 300 lbs	1	5	5	Open country adventuring. High flotation supports snowshoer and their gear

FAQs

This is a lot of information. Is there anyone I can contact to get a recommendation?

Yes we can give you a recommendation based on your specific needs. Email us at orders@iversonsnowshoes.com and tell us a little bit about yourself. We don't need to know your favorite color but a description of where you go and what you plan to do will help a lot. Weight ratings are posted in our selection guide so you don't need to tell us your weight but if you want a definitive recommendation for yourself or "a friend" a rough estimate of your weight with all the gear you plan to haul will help.

Do you have a retail store?

Our shop is located in Wetmore Michigan at E9664 MI Highway 28, Wetmore, MI 49895 and is open from 7:30-3:30 weekdays for visitors to come by for retail sales and to see how our products are made. We are a small business and stuff does come up to take us away from the shop so if you are planning to come by, give us a call to be sure we are there but if you are passing by and stop in, chances are you will find us in the shop.

What boots do you recommend?

Our bindings work with any boots that you want to wear so you can pick based on the conditions you expect to go out in. Many customers like the comfort of a hiking-style boot for recreational snowshoeing while back-country users often use either a pack-style boot. Be sure to get a sized of binding that can handle your most likely choice.

Thoughts from, Jim Baker the buyer's guide author and Iverson's Vice President of Customer Experience

I am 5'10" and 220lbs (depending on the Holiday – to borrow a line that a customer once gave me). I have a pair of 12X46 Iverson Michigan snowshoes that I have had since I was 16 years old. These are my "go-to" shoes for breaking trail or traveling through open hardwoods. They float really well and the long tail helps them glide for a smoother walk. My brother had a pair of 13X35 Bear Paws that also float well and are more maneuverable in the woods but not quite as comfortable for walking on the trail in my opinion. When I go rabbit hunting in the cedars I borrow my brother's Bear Paws but prefer my Michigan's for walking through the open hardwoods. My wife has a pair of 10X30 Green Mountain snowshoes that she and I wove in a workshop shortly after we got married, just over 25 years ago. She loves her Green Mountains and I borrow them when I am going on short trips on packed trails or settled snow. When we go out together I generally break trail, not only because I am a gentleman but also because the Michigan style snowshoe floats a little better on fresh snow.