

# BOARD ADVICE



## FIRST THINGS FIRST. HOW EXPERIENCED ARE YOU?

*Have you ever tried surfing or been out in the waves? Are you ready to get into it and invest in a board of your own?*

You've come to the right place.

As a beginner, you will be looking for a longer-size board, such as a longboard/mini mal. These boards are wide, stable and easy to paddle; perfect for small days to get the feel for surfing a wave.

The pro's make riding a shortboard look far too easy but don't be fooled into thinking that anyone can just skip straight to a small surfboard and suddenly hack and do airs. Surfing is a life-long challenge and starting with the wrong board will translate into a long, hard struggle. If you learn the basics on a fun shape or longboard now, it will make the transition to a shorter board a lot easier.

*Are you comfortable in the water, riding and catching waves? Bored of the mini mal you learned to surf on a few years ago?*

Sounds like you're moving up in the world!

If shortboard shredding is what you seek, then you may want to step down from a longboard or mini-mal to something smaller, like a shortboard or fish. If you don't want to jump down too much then look at a few fish or groveler boards. These are smaller boards that still hold a lot of volume in them but will be faster and more responsive in small-medium waves. If longboarding is your steeze, then opt for a smaller, more performance-based longboard allowing you a bit more freedom and movement on the wave.

*Mate if you don't resonate with either of these there's no need for this guide.. Go shred!*

## YOUR WEIGHT

Weight is a very important factor when selecting your board. If you are a lighter person, (under 85kgs) then a smaller board will be easier for you to paddle and turn on rather than someone slightly heavier (90kgs +) who will require a larger board. Bigger is always better for learning. Below is a guide to give you a rough idea of what volume you'll be looking for.

WEIGHT	BEGINNER	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED
50kg	35L	23L	21L
55kg	37.5L	24L	22L
60kg	40L	25L	23L
65kg	42.5L	27.5L	24L
70kg	45L	30L	25L
75kg	47.5L	32.5L	27.5L
80kg	50L	35L	30L

<b>85kg</b>	52.5L	37.5L	32.5L
<b>90kg</b>	55L	40L	35L
<b>95kg</b>	57.5L	42.5L	37.5L
<b>100kg</b>	60L	45L	40L
<b>105kg</b>	62.5L	47.5L	42.5L
<b>110kg</b>	65L	50L	45L
<b>115kg</b>	67.5L	52.5L	47.5L
<b>120kg</b>	70L	55L	50L

*Remember, when in doubt, always go with a larger size surfboard.*

If you're wondering what type of board goes with the recommended volume, here's a rough guide.

SHAPE	VOLUME
<b>Performance Board</b>	20L - 40L
<b>Fish Board</b>	26L - 42L
<b>Gun Board</b>	40L - 45L
<b>Mini Mal</b>	40L - 60L
<b>Longboard</b>	65L - 80L

## WHAT IS YOUR FITNESS LEVEL?

Volume is not the only factor, surfing is a sport that requires a lot of fitness. A strong, agile individual with lots of experience in other board sports, such as skateboarding, wakeboarding or snowboarding, should have no trouble at all jumping onto a shortboard or fish from the get-go. In saying this even for someone who is very fit and has lots of experience with other board sports, it can take months of daily surfing to learn just the basics of the ocean, how to catch waves, and learning to ride the face.

If you do not fit into the category above you will want to seek out a longer board, such as a mini-mal or longboard. This is because they have a lot more float, stability, and make catching waves a beginners dream in comparison.

*If you think you are somewhere in the middle, try a fun shape, a bigger style shortboard or a fish.*

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT BOARD FOR THE CONDITIONS

Like most of us, you probably reside where the waves are smaller - most of the time the waves are in the 1' to 4' range. If your local break is slower and not so clean, then longboards and fish will be better than a standard performance shortboard. If you want to try your hand at a steeper, hollower wave, then having a shortboard or smaller size board always helps, as they fit the geometry of the steep wave face better.

*Just remember, it's not fun to grovel in 2' slop, on a board that's not big enough to hold you up. Maximise your fun and pick the correct board for the type of waves you will be riding.*

Heres a chart to give you a rough idea what type of board you should be riding for what you want to do. Click on the chart links to go straight to the collection

WAVE SIZE	BEGINNER	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED
Small Waves (1-3ft)	<a href="#">Soft Board</a>	<a href="#">Longboard</a>	<a href="#">Longboard</a>
	<a href="#">Longboard</a>	<a href="#">Mini Mal</a>	<a href="#">Mini Mal</a>
	<a href="#">Mini Mal</a>	<a href="#">Fish</a>	<a href="#">Fish</a>

			<a href="#">Groveler</a>
<b>Medium Waves</b> <b>(4-6ft)</b>	<a href="#">Mini Mal</a> <a href="#">Fish</a>	<a href="#">Mini Mal</a> <a href="#">Fish</a> <a href="#">Performance Board</a>	<a href="#">Mini Mal</a> <a href="#">Performance Board</a>
<b>Large Waves</b> <b>(6ft +)</b>	N/A	<a href="#">Performance Board</a>	<a href="#">Performance Board</a>