

Thinking of Buying Ice Skates?

Some Important Facts to Consider

New or Used:

Used skates can offer some significant savings over new skates, however there are some potential shortcomings to consider. Selection is usually limited, ankle support is often broken down, and the quality of the blade is often not worthy of creating a good gliding surface. In each of these cases, the shortcomings are not readily apparent to the untrained eye. In order to get the proper fit and quality you deserve, used skates should only be bought in a reputable skate shop.

Proper Fit:

Ice skates are generally sized and fit different than street shoes. In fact, most skate manufacturers size their skates one to two sizes off the street shoe, so it is extremely important to have a knowledgeable skate fitter help you with your purchase. One important thing to remember is that skates that are too large significantly impair a skater's performance and cause ankle support to break down very quickly. A professional skate fitter will provide enough room for your child's growth without sacrificing skating performance.

Mass Merchants vs. Skate Shops:

Although many mass merchants carry ice skates, it is important to remember that they do not make their living selling these products and their knowledge of skating is very limited. Specialty skating shops spend a great deal of time training their employees and have much greater selection and service. Surprisingly, many skate shops offer price points or packages that provide a greater value to the consumer.

Service:

Most mass merchants do not offer follow up service or support for your skates. Ice skates must be sharpened before you can skate on them. In addition, proper skate care will help your skater's performance on the ice.