FIRST FISHING TRIP CHECKLIST

15 things you actually need - and 10 things you can skip for now

TAKE THESE

- ☐ Fishing license/permit if required
- ☐ Official regulations for the exact water
- ☐ Simple spinning rod-and-reel combo
- ☐ Fishing line in good condition
- ☐ Small hooks
- ☐ A few split-shot sinkers
- ☐ A few bobbers
- ☐ One legal bait option
- ☐ Three simple lures: spinner, spoon, jig
- ☐ Needle-nose/fishing pliers
- ☐ Small tackle box or pouch
- ☐ Water
- ☐ Sun/weather protection
- ☐ Charged phone
- ☐ Trash bag

SKIP THESE FOR NOW

- ☐ Huge tackle box
- ☐ Multiple specialty rods
- ☐ Expensive fish finder
- ☐ Dozens of lure colors
- ☐ Premium reel upgrade
- ☐ Specialty line systems
- ☐ Large lure collection
- ☐ Fancy fishing clothing
- ☐ Every tool in the tackle aisle
- ☐ Anything you cannot explain why you need

YOUR FIRST TRIP - 3 SIMPLE STAGES

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

- ☐ Check the current rules for the exact water.
- ☐ Check weather and safety conditions.
- ☐ Rig the rod at home if possible.
- ☐ Pack the small kit above.

AT THE WATER

- ☐ Look behind you before every cast.
- ☐ Start near cover, shade, weed edges, docks, points, current changes, or depth changes.
- ☐ If nothing bites: change depth → speed → angle → bait/lure → location.
- ☐ Handle fish quickly and gently; follow local keep/release rules.

BEFORE YOU GO HOME

- ☐ Pick up line, hooks, packaging, and trash.
- ☐ Write down one thing that worked and one thing to change next time.

Want the Whole Beginner System?
Catch Your First Fish walks you through gear, simple rigs, bait and lures, where to cast, what to do when nothing bites, landing fish, regulations, and your first trip step by step.

Fish Finder Outdoors

Need help deciding where to try? Use the free fishing-report search at **FishFinderOutdoors.com**

Find current fishing information and promising places to start - then always verify the current official rules for the exact water.