

The Ultimate Ontario Tackle Box Checklist



Rods & Reels

- ☐ Medium-action spinning rod 6'6"-7' with 2500–3000 spinning reel (do-it-all setup)
- ☐ Ultralight rod 4'6"-5'6" for trout and panfish
- ☐ Medium-heavy 7' rod for pike and walleye jigging
- ☐ Fly rod (optional) for steelhead and river trout

Line

- ☐ Monofilament 8–10 lb (versatile starting line)
- ☐ Braided line 20–30 lb (pike, muskie, heavy cover)
- ☐ Fluorocarbon leader 12–15 lb (with braid, prevents bite-offs)
- ☐ Fluorocarbon main line 10–12 lb (finesse: drop shot, jigs)

Hooks

- ☐ Sizes 8–10 — panfish (perch, crappie, bluegill)
- ☐ Sizes 4–2 — walleye (jigs, harnesses, live bait rigs)
- ☐ Sizes 1/0–3/0 — bass and pike
- ☐ Circle hooks size 2–2/0 — live bait, safer releases
- ☐ Pliers for crimping barbs (required in some parks/waters)

Sinkers & Weights

- ☐ Split shot BB to 3/8 oz
- ☐ Bell or egg sinkers 1/4 to 1 oz
- ☐ Non-lead alternatives (tin / bismuth / steel / tungsten) — required in national parks & wildlife areas

Lures

- ☐ Inline spinners (panfish through muskie)
- ☐ Spinner harnesses for walleye, pike, perch
- ☐ Jigs 1/8–3/8 oz in white, chartreuse, black
- ☐ Spoons (pike over weeds, lake trout)

- ☐ Crankbaits / jerkbaits (Rapala-style) in multiple diving depths
- ☐ Topwater poppers for bass
- ☐ Steel or heavy fluorocarbon leaders for pike & muskie

Tools & Accessories

- ☐ Needle-nose pliers
- ☐ Line cutters / clippers
- ☐ Slip floats and fixed bobbers
- ☐ Snap swivels size 7–10
- ☐ Landing net
- ☐ Hook sharpener
- ☐ Small tape measure

Beyond the Box

- ☐ Valid Ontario fishing licence & Outdoors Card (Parks Canada permit if applicable)
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Bug spray
- ☐ Extra layer / rain jacket
- ☐ Water and snacks
- ☐ Polarized sunglasses
- ☐ First aid kit

Notes

Always check current Ontario fishing regulations at ontario.ca before heading out, particularly around lead tackle restrictions and barbless hook requirements in specific waters.