

Use the Five W's to Choose a Hammock

Hammocks are only good for one thing, and that's relaxing! So when you're picking out a hammock, the first rule is: don't stress about it, because hammocks are anti-stress. Besides, this article gives you all the information you need for each hammock type. You'll feel absolutely comfortable making the right hammock choice. (Pun intended!)

The second rule to consider when choosing a hammock is: think about yourself first. You won't use the hammock unless it's sheer heaven for you to ease back into.

What to Consider Before Choosing a Hammock

Here's a few W's to think about:

- **Who** will use it? Most of our hammock styles can hold up to three adults. Now that's a cozy get-together! And some of our hammocks are easier for kids (and pets) to climb into than others.
- **What** material will suit you best? Although early hammocks were made from hamack tree bark (the name "hammock" comes from this), our hammocks are made from one of three textiles: string, rope, or cloth.
 - *Cloth*—Hammocks made from cloth have a bed-like feel. Cloth is easy to maintain and there's a wider variety of colors and materials that range from durable canvas to high-tech fabrics. However, because cloth hammocks don't have an open weave, they don't provide as much ventilation as rope or string.
 - *Rope*—The classic style of a rope hammock is familiar to nearly everyone. This is an extremely durable material that, with a quality hammock, can be very comfortable. However, some people find rope has too rigid of a feel.
 - *String*—The benefits of string are that it's highly breathable, lightweight, and quick-drying. It can also be dyed in a variety of colors and is an inexpensive material. However, the colors can fade with use and it's not as durable as rope or cloth.
- **Where** you will use it? Inside or outside? Take measurements of the area where you plan to hang the hammock. This will come in handy when it's time to order. (If you think you don't have a place to hang a hammock, check out our [wood or steel hammock stands](#) or our one-sided [Madera stand](#). These options mean you can place your hammock almost anywhere!)
- **When** you will use it? Will it hang outside for the duration of your warm weather season? Some of our hammocks are more weather-resistant than others.

- Think about **why** you will use it. Wait a minute! This was already covered. There's only one reason to buy a hammock – to relax and do absolutely nothing!

Our Variety of Hammock Styles

Now that you've thought about how you'll use your hammock, it's time to decide on an exact style. HammockUniverse.com carries these hammocks styles:

- Brazilian hammocks
- Camping hammocks
- Mayan hammocks
- Rope hammocks

Brazilian Hammocks

Brazilian hammocks are made from thick, soft cotton cloth that's both resilient and comfortable. The Barbados and Rumba styles offer lots of color choices. These hammocks can be left outside during the warm season, but the colors will fade over time.

We guarantee our Brazilian hammocks free from manufacturer's defects for a period of one year.

Camping Hammocks

Our camping hammocks do three things very well:

- They fold up small (8" x 4") and weigh very little (10 oz.).
- The Mosquito Traveller style offers netting that protects against insects.
- All that and they're still extremely comfortable!

These camping hammocks are made from durable parachute nylon. We guarantee our camping hammocks free from manufacturer's defects for a period of one year.

Mayan Hammocks

Mayan hammocks are made of colorful dyed string that's woven in a diamond weave pattern. Skilled Mayan artisans weave hammocks (in ethical and humane conditions), and each one is an individually crafted piece of art. Therefore, the color combinations may vary.

Lying on a Mayan hammock – whether it's the extra-large size with extra-thick string or the regular Mayan hammock – has been compared to lying on a soft sponge. The pliable cotton string is the secret to these hammocks' unmatched comfort.

We guarantee our Mayan hammocks free from manufacturer's defects for a period of one year.

Rope Hammocks

The rope hammocks that HammockUniverse.com offers are permanently spread open with wooden spacer bars. You can choose between the classic white cotton rope and soft-spun, braided polyester (that some claim is even softer than cotton). The weatherized cotton rope hammock has hand-braided, reinforced edges.

If you plan to leave your hammock outside during the warm weather season, you'll want to pay attention to the hardware construction of the spreader bars. Our hammock's spreader bars have a quality finish of nickel-plated fasteners and triple-varnished, waxed hardwood bars.

We guarantee our rope hammocks free from material and workmanship defects for a period of three years.

At-A-Glance Hammock Ratings

To make it easier to see what each hammock style offers, check out these ratings:

Hammock Style	Rating				
	<i>Comfort</i>	<i>Durability</i>	<i>Fast-Drying</i>	<i>Kid Friendly</i>	<i># of People</i>
Brazilian	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓✓	Up to 3
Camping	✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	1
Mayan	✓✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	Up to 3
Rope	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓	Up to 3

We can't close this article without one piece of important advice: *Don't forget your hammock pillow!*