# Product Review

**Product:** Carbon Fiber Poles

**Date:** 2023-11-19

**Customer Review**

Relying on equipment daily as a backcountry ski guide in the Wasatch demands reliability. After subjecting these Carbon Fiber Poles to over 60 days of professional use in punishing conditions, their performance warrants assessment for potential buyers considering the investment. The weight savings were immediately noticeable and appreciated, reducing fatigue over countless vertical feet gained guiding clients. The light swing weight also aids in quicker movements and instruction. Stiffness felt adequate for leveraging on steep skin tracks.

Crucial features for guiding held up well. The extended grips proved invaluable for quick hand adjustments on variable terrain and during instruction, while the lever locking mechanisms remained consistently secure despite frequent length changes between skinning and skiing modes – essential for efficiency. Strap comfort was good for all-day use.

Durability in a professional setting highlighted carbon's trade-offs. While strong under normal touring forces, they require careful handling; one pole sustained minor shaft damage from incidental rock contact that aluminum might have shrugged off, emphasizing the brittleness risk. The stock powder baskets performed reasonably well in typical Wasatch powder conditions.

For guides or serious backcountry users prioritizing weight savings and performance features like reliable locks and extended grips, these poles deliver tangible benefits. However, the 'substantial investment' must be weighed against the inherent fragility of carbon compared to aluminum, demanding mindful use in rugged terrain to ensure longevity.