# Product Review

**Product:** Carbon Fiber Poles

**Date:** 2023-12-25

**Customer Review**

Seeking to minimize weight on long snowshoeing expeditions, I integrated these Carbon Fiber Poles into my winter travel setup, primarily valuing their low weight and length adjustability for adapting to varying terrain from flat trails to steep climbs and descents. The weight savings compared to standard aluminum poles are definitely appreciated, particularly when covering significant mileage where every ounce begins to matter over the course of a full day. The adjustability is also key, and the lever locking mechanism has held securely under pressure, providing reliable support even when leaning heavily on them during strenuous uphill pushes or controlled downhill steps. The ergonomic grips remained comfortable even after many hours of continuous use with winter gloves.

However, a significant deficiency became immediately apparent during the first foray into deep, unconsolidated snow: the standard-sized trekking baskets included with the poles are completely inadequate for meaningful snowshoeing. They offer virtually no flotation, plunging straight through deep powder and providing little to no support precisely when it's needed most for propulsion or balance while breaking trail. I found it absolutely necessary to purchase and install larger aftermarket snowshoe-specific powder baskets to make the poles functional for their intended purpose in typical winter conditions. Without this modification, they are frustratingly ineffective in soft snow.

Additionally, while excellent for purchase on firm snow or ice, the sharp carbide tips can feel surprisingly slippery and insecure when encountering occasional rock slabs on wind-scoured ridges or mixed terrain sections sometimes found above treeline, lacking the friction of rubber tips used in summer hiking. While the core attributes of being lightweight and adjustable are certainly appealing for snowshoeing, these poles essentially require modification (larger baskets) to be truly effective tools for serious snowshoeing in common deep snow conditions. Potential buyers should factor in the added cost and effort of swapping the baskets.