

I Can See Clearly Now!

Prescription Masks Demystified for Underwater Explorers

Clear vision underwater isn't just a luxury—it's a game changer for safety, enjoyment, and confidence on every dive. After some recent chatter on a club trip about prescription masks, it feels like the perfect moment to bring this topic into focus for all our Mount Underwater Club members.

Why Consider a Prescription Mask?

If you wear glasses on land, chances are you've noticed things aren't quite as crisp beneath the surface. Whether it's spotting marine life in the distance or reading your gauges, a prescription dive mask can make a huge difference.

Most major dive gear manufacturers offer "off-the-shelf" prescription-compatible masks. These are typically two-lens designs where the standard lenses can be swapped out for corrective ones—simple and effective.

Fit Comes First

Before diving into diopters and lens options, there's one golden rule: **fit is everything**.

No matter how good the lenses are, a mask that doesn't seal properly or feels uncomfortable will ruin your dive. Always try a mask on before buying—face shapes vary, and what works for one diver might not work for another.

Choosing the Right Lenses

Prescription mask lenses come in two main types:

◆ Negative Diopters (for distance vision)

If you're short-sighted and struggle to see clearly far away, these are for you.

- Provide consistent correction across the entire lens
- Typically range from **-1.0 to -7.0**
- Available in **0.5 increments**

◆ Positive Diopters (for reading up close)

If your main issue is reading gauges or dive computers, positive lenses help.

- Similar to bifocals, with correction in the lower section
- Usually range from **+1.5 to +3.0**
- Also in **0.5 increments**





A handy tip: since most divers check gauges on their left side, some opt for a **single corrective lens** on the left only.

What If Your Prescription Doesn't Match Exactly?

If your prescription falls between available options—say **-1.75**—it's generally better to go slightly lower (e.g., **-1.5**). Water naturally magnifies objects a bit, helping bridge the gap.

Budget and Options

There's a wide range of prescription masks and lenses available to suit different budgets. At Dive Zone we stock four different masks that can take prescription lenses; masks ranging from \$69.99-149.99 and Lenses from 39.99-\$89.99 each

But remember: **the best mask isn't the most expensive—it's the one that fits you perfectly and lets you see clearly.**

Whether you're navigating a reef, checking your air, or simply admiring the underwater world, clear vision makes every dive better. If you've been squinting through your mask, it might be time to make the switch.

Happy diving—and see you underwater!