



## Dry Fly Fishing Season Preparation

For people who dry fly fish the winter, the start of general fishing season is simply a continuation of what they have enjoyed for the previous five months. But if you pull out the fly rod at the end of May, it's time to get prepared. Here's a check list to help you be ready when the season opens:

1. Clean your fly reel and lightly Vaseline the sprockets and gears.
2. Check your fly line for cracking or nicks—change it if you find them.
3. Check the nail knot at the connection between the fly line and backing for strength...any doubts, retie the knot.
4. Tie on a new butt piece about 20-inches long connected to the end of the fly line for ease in attaching tapered leaders.
5. Tie on a new tapered leader and stretch it well before rewinding on your reel.
6. Check the eyes of the rod to make sure there's no grooving that may shred the fly line.
7. Open your fly box and organize it making sure you're supplied with all the necessary fly patterns to cover the water you intend to fish. If you need suggestions, contact us for help, but make sure you are always overstocked with the finest flies money can buy.
8. Make sure you are stocked with plenty of tippets, fly gink and tapered leaders.
9. Check your fly vest for functional zingers, clippers, forceps, and specimen container.
10. Test your waders *before* the season in water chest deep and check for leaks.
11. And finally, inspect your net for holes and push into the bottom for strength and indications of rotting.

If you follow this check list in detail, you'll find yourself remarkably ready to fish when the season opens May 25.