

C'MON GET LAZY

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SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

Is Dad frazzled over finances? Too broke for a vacation? Chill him out in a hammock for Father's Day.

"This year, with a troubled economy weighing on the minds of most Americans, the calming effect of hammocks is a practical and cost-effective means to unwind and get away from it all," says Aaron Hassen, marketing manager for patio furniture retailer YardEnvy.com.

To make the buying process as stress-free as swinging in a breeze, we asked some experts for tips on choosing the right hammock.

First, decide between a traditional "cocoon" model that conforms to the body, or a model with spreader bars, suggests Frank Rabey of Pawleys Island Hammocks in North Carolina. The bars keep it open for easier entry and allow more room for guests.

Depending on your family's preferences, you might want one of each.

Choosing the perfect hammock for Dad (and the rest of the family, too)

NO TREES?

Although hammocks traditionally hang between trees, they can be slung from vertical or horizontal stands of metal or wood (ranging from \$30 for simple steel piping to \$430 for premium cypress). Stands offer stability and let you move the hammock to different spots.

With a tree-mounted model, consider straps (about \$25) instead of hooks. Straps let you anchor and adjust the hammock without making holes in the trunk. Find tutorials on installation, hanging and care at hammock-company.com.

DURABILITY

Organic fibers have a limited life span, and require storage during inclement weather. Newer synthetics such as DuraCord are resistant to rot, mold, mildew, staining and fading.

Look for spreader bars made of well-varnished solid wood or naturally hardy hardwood, like cypress or cumaru, or a composite synthetic like Durawood.

SAFETY

Not all manufacturers test and certify their hammocks for safety, so take a few minutes to examine before buying:

- Are the ropes thick and tightly wound?
- Does the fabric feel sturdy?
- Are hooks and chains made from high-grade metal?
- If there's a weight limit listed, would your normal use of the hammock for any reason exceed that?

FOUR BASIC MODELS



■ Quilted hammocks have a bed-like, padded feel and come in a variety of patterns to match outdoor décor. The Pawleys Island striped quilted fabric hammock is \$200 at hammock-company.com.



■ Single-layer (poolside) hammocks are made of fast-drying acrylic fabrics or canvas. This NFL polyester hammock is \$119 at yardenvy.com.



■ Traditional rope or nylon net hammocks will keep you a little cooler in hot weather. Yoav Amin of Fair Lawn, who recently launched thehappyhammock.com, has a \$150 family-size model with fiberglass spreader bars for his three children to share (shown here, Nadav, 8, Noga, 11, and Naomi, 5). Baby hammock, \$60.



■ Camping/travel hammocks are lightweight and portable. Matt McGuire of Campmor in Paramus suggests Texsport's La Paz cloth model (pictured), available in five patterns, \$16.99; Bliss' "mosquito-free" and "rain-free" hammocks, \$19.99-\$57.99; and Byer's parachute silk/nylon traveler hammock, \$19.99. Frank Ribustello, camping manager at Ramsey Outdoor in Ramsey, says Coughlans' \$14.99 1-pound polyester model is a popular seller.

WHERE TO BUY

- Backyard Living, Ridgewood
- Brookstone stores in Hackensack, Paramus and Wayne
- Campmor, Paramus
- Mitchell Simon, Englewood
- Ramsey Outdoor, Paramus, Ramsey and Ledgewood

WHERE TO BUY ONLINE

Hammocks are sold at general sites such as amazon.com, and also from specialty retailers such as:

- 101hammocks.com
- hammocks.com
- hammock-company.com
- houseofhammocks.com
- myhammock.com
- nagsheadhammocks.com
- seasidehammocks.com
- thehammocksource.com
- thehappyhammock.com
- yardenvy.com