

# How to Find a Lost Ski in Deep Snow

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It happens to everyone. While cruising through waist-deep powder snow, something reaches up and pulls you down. Now you can't find your ski. But, instead of wasting half of your [vacation](#) stumbling around, try this methodical approach to finding your wayward ski.

Difficulty: Moderate

## Instructions

things you'll need:

- One ski
- A ski pole
- Some good friends
- LOTS of patience

- 1 Begin by standing up, taking a deep breath and checking yourself for injuries. Take a moment to clear your mind before beginning the search.
- 2 Look around the area and try to determine exactly where you fell. Were you traveling straight? Turning right or left? This will give you clues about where to begin searching for your ski.
- 3 If you're skiing with friends, ask them if they saw how you fell. They may be able to provide you with clues about where your ski went.
- 4 Walk to the point where you think you fell and stick your remaining ski into the snow. Chances are, your ski came off nearby, so this will become your central reference point.
- 5 Using one of your ski poles, slowly drag the tip through the snow toward you. Since many skis come off before you fall, it's a good idea to begin searching uphill from where you are standing.
- 6 Repeat the previous step, moving 6 to 12 inches to the right. Continue drawing vertical lines in the snow.
- 7 If you still haven't found your ski, drag your ski pole from left to right, creating a "grid". Continue dragging your ski pole across the vertical lines until you reach your feet.
- 8 Expand your search, creating new grids by moving slightly to the right or left of the original grid.

## Tips & Warnings

- The best way to prevent losing a ski is by wearing "Powder Cords". Powder cords are brightly colored strips of fabric that attach to your bindings. In the event of a fall, simply find the end of the cord and trace it back to your ski.
- If you can't find your ski, give your telephone number to the resort Ski Patrol. Chances are, your ski will turn up when the snow melts in the spring and they'll return it if they know how to reach you.

- Never assume that your lost ski is above where you fell. Fast moving skis can often "submarine" for yards under the snow.
- Try not to walk more than you have to. Trudging through deep snow is the easiest way to become exhausted or injured.