

Help in Choosing a Walkie-Talkie

Walkie-talkies (also called two way radios) tend to be fairly similar in form and function but there are a couple of important features to consider when deciding what to buy.

Most importantly, make sure your radio supports “privacy codes” also known as CTCSS codes. All radios support the 22 different channels but the less expensive ones often do not support the privacy codes. Since our club has settled on using channel 4 and privacy code 4, your radio won’t be able to communicate with other members unless it supports these privacy codes (frequently 121 different ones but their number may vary).

Second, the more expensive radios are often water-resistant. They aren’t designed to be dropped in a stream for an hour, but they should be able to survive being used in the rain and snow.

Where can you buy walkie-talkies? Costco sometimes carries a Motorola radio that is a good choice and a good price but they only stock them intermittently. Your best bet is probably purchasing them online from merchants like Amazon.com or REI.com.

Over time specific radio choices come and go but some choices you might want to consider are:

Motorola T460 (or the non weather-resistant sibling, the T260)

Midland GXT 1000VP4

Cobra ACXT645