

# Better Fly Fishing

## Casting and Leader Tips

**If you want to improve your catch. (and who doesn't) There are many things you can work on. But you've got to start somewhere, right? So let's look at your casting technique. This is one of the most common reasons for a poor catch.**

**Does your cast end up with the leader collapsing into a tangled heap, If this is the case, first check your back cast. It should unroll in a neat, tight loop and then fully straighten out, before you start on the forward cast. Also what length of leader should you be using?**

**If you have plenty of space, a twelve foot leader is great for keeping your line well away from the fish, but only if you have the skills necessary to get it to turn over and straighten out. A 9 foot leader will be easier to cast and easier to present the fly to the fish, while still keeping the fly line a good distance away, and you can always extend it further with a long tippet, although again you may then have similar problems turning and straightening out.**

**The longer and finer the tippet, the more bites you'll get. But only if you are able to present the fly correctly. If space is too restricted for long casts, go down to a 7 ½ foot leader. This will help you keep more fly line in the air on the cast.**

**Experiment with different leader and tippet lengths and above all, practice, practice, practice.**

**Many beginner fly fishermen think that they're not catching anything because they're using the wrong fly, so they swap it for another and cast again, and then they do it again. The problem with this is: Each time you change flies, your leader gets shorter and the tippet becomes thicker as you move up the tapered line. As you get higher, threading the tippet through the eye of the fly hook becomes more difficult, and the fish is more likely to notice the tippet.**

**None of this is what you want, and usually, the real problem is, you're just not presenting the fly to the fish correctly. So make sure your cast is as good as you can get it, and the only way you'll achieve this is, (Have I mentioned this before?) Practice, Practice, Practice.**

**Happy Fly Fishing,**

**William.** [www.betterflyfishing.com](http://www.betterflyfishing.com)

**P.S. Always use the best leaders and tippetts you can afford. The cheaper ones can be much more difficult to cast correctly.**

**P.P.S. If you really want to improve your casting techniques, Check out the beginner, and advanced, casting sections in [Flyfishing Unleashed](#). You will discover step by step ways to practice and improve your cast that will quickly make a huge difference to your catch**