

Tips for Mixed Climbing at Cathedral Ledge!

Few things get me as psyched up as a winter day spent ice and mixed climbing at Cathedral Ledge! But over the last couple decades, damage from picks and crampons has become very visible on the granite.

So how does a climber figure out which routes are acceptable for mixed climbing at Cathedral, and what's out of bounds? It is a fraught subject that might feel impenetrable to a newcomer to the area. In an effort to reduce gatekeeping, I've attempted to compile the few routes that *most* people consider "fair game" for winter mixed ascents.

I conducted an online poll of 58 rock and ice climbers, and I combined those results with the input of many of my acquaintances who are active at Cathedral in winter and summer. If you want to mixed climb at Cathedral without making people angry, consider the following advice.

In addition to the pure ice climbs, there are a handful of Cathedral routes that most climbers consider OK for mixed climbing. They are:

- **The Big Flush**
- **Repentance**
- **Remission**
- **Remission Direct**

If you're on one of those lines in winter, you're unlikely to ruffle any feathers.



Kara Glinnen on Remission

Two other routes have a long history of winter ascents, but special precautions must be taken to protect the granite.

When the initial slab is covered in climbable ice, many people consider Standard Route to be an acceptable mixed climb. Be sure not to touch the rock with crampons or tools as you go past the rock climbs Repulsion and Toe Crack.

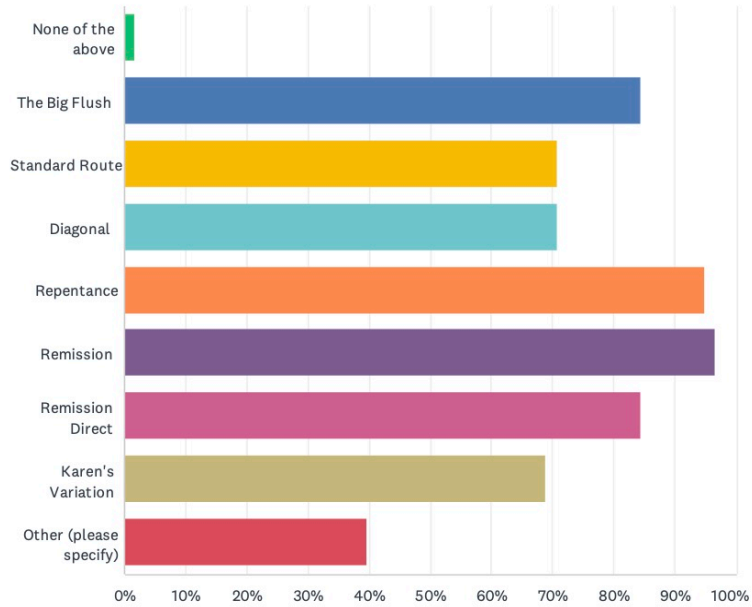
When the Standard Route ice slab is climbable, it is also possible to access Diagonal. Public opinion is that one should remove their crampons on middle pitch, between Standard Route and the Diagonal pillar, if you're on bare rock.

This is not a list of rules – these are simply suggestions based on my own experience and a little research. But I hope this information helps shed some light on this complex topic. I look forward to seeing you on the cliff!

Written by Nick Aiello-Popeo
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**Q1 Which of the following do you consider acceptable to mixed climb?
Check all that apply.**

Answered: 58 Skipped: 0



Molly Mundy on Repentance



The author on Remission Direct