

Washing personal hiking equipment

This resource can help with the following areas:

- Stage 4: I can care for all my personal hiking equipment.

Taking proper care of your hiking equipment is an important part of hillwalking. This card offers advice on how to wash different items of clothing.

How To Clean And Re-Waterproof A Coat

1. Clean your machine First. Pull out the drawer and clean away the residue of old washing powder. Don't forget to clean the shelf the drawer sits on. Run an empty wash to clear the pipes. Washing powder is your enemy at this point.
2. Close all Zips, loosen all cords and velcro fastenings
3. Set machine at the slowest spin speed and the lowest temperature.
4. Only have at a maximum of two garments per load
5. Do not use any washing powder or liquid of any type. Do not use any fabric conditioner of any type
6. Use Nikwax tech wash, use on pack guidelines for the quantity Wash
7. Inspect the jacket and if you are not happy use a little bit of neat tech wash rubbed in with a nail brush on the spots that you think are still dirty. Use gentle brush strokes in the same direction, for example along the collar or the elbows
8. Wash again using Tech Wash at the same slow speed and low temperature



9. This should be enough to produce a clean coat, if not then repeat.
10. This will now leave you with a clean coat but now you must reapply the water repellent. Use Nix Wax TX Direct and follow the on pack guidelines. Again at low speed and temperature.
11. After the TX direct wash, for a particular hard layer of water repellent hang the jacket and spray some TX Direct onto the outside of the jacket
12. Air-dry the jacket on the line
13. When the jacket is dry it can be put into the dryer on a low temperature until it feels warm. This is to reactivate the permanent water repellent that may be present.

Wash your waterproof trousers in the exact same way

Some Differences

1. If the Jacket is very dirty, you will be forced to use a domestic laundry liquid. Do not use powder
2. Wash at low speed and temperature
3. After the jacket is clean. Your job now is to get rid of the laundry liquid. Wash the jacket with Nikwax Tech Wash at least 4 times. Laundry powder and liquids love water and this stops your jacket being waterproof so it is important to get rid of all traces. If you leave any on, then jacket is useless
4. Use TX Direct when you are sure that the laundry cleaner is all gone

How to Wash Fleece and Trousers (poly/cotton and polyester)

1. Turn inside out, this is very important.
2. Use a very small amount of laundry liquid
3. Set machine to slow speed and low temperature. Slow and low are the key
4. Air Dry



How to Wash Walking Socks

1. Turn inside out
2. Wash as wool (regardless of the fabric content)
3. Set machine to slow speed and low temperature
4. Air Dry
5. Fold Socks for storage. Do not roll into each other



How to Wash a Synthetic Jacket

1. Wash the exact same as a Waterproof Jacket above
2. AIR DRY FLAT. thats important, AIR DRY FLAT. Open the jacket out and turn several times.
You will read on all American websites that you should low tumble dry,
This is **WRONG** as it will "melt" and damage the insulation properties. Therefore, the jacket will not be as warm and not do the job it was intended for. i.e.. trapping heat.
3. When dry, pop the jacket into a low heat tumble dryer for a minute This is to reactivate the permanent water repellent that may be present