

Waterproof Clothing Care Guide



Why it's Important to Wash and Reproof your Waterproof Clothing

Waterproof clothing is designed to be durable, but it will last longer and perform better with proper care. To keep your wet weather gear in top condition, it's important to understand how it works and how to maintain it, including washing and reapplying the water repellent finish on your waterproof jackets and over trousers.

Understanding Waterproof Clothing

- **Purpose:** DWR is a treatment applied to the outer fabric of waterproof clothing to make water bead up and roll off, preventing the fabric from becoming saturated.
- **Environmental Changes:** Recently, DWR treatments have been made mostly PFC-free to reduce environmental impact. Because of this DWR coatings are less durable and more prone to staining. **This means waterproof clothing will require more frequent cleaning and reproofing.**

The performance of waterproof fabrics relies on their ability to repel water while allowing internal moisture to escape. When the outer fabric of jackets or trousers starts to absorb water or becomes dirty, it loses this capability. Although the inner membrane will continue to provide waterproof protection, it won't be able to release sweat, creating condensation inside your garment. However, there's no need to worry. You can easily clean and restore your clothing's waterproofing at home using aftercare products from Grangers, Storm or Nikwax.

What does PFC -Free mean?

The PFC-Free Movement:

Perfluorinated compounds, once prevalent in DWR treatments, have been associated with environmental and health concerns. To address these issues, many outdoor gear manufacturers are adopting PFC-free alternatives, which are designed to be less harmful to the environment and reduce the risks of bioaccumulation.

The Durability Challenge:

While the environmental benefits of PFC-free DWR are clear, the transition raises questions about the durability of outdoor gear. PFCs are known for their long-lasting water and oil-repellent properties, providing a robust shield against the elements. In contrast having a PFC free jacket while is environmentally friendly, can cause the following issues that users need to be aware of

- A less durable DWR coating which will require the user to clean their waterproof clothing much more regularly. Even from the early stages of its life.
- Is more prone to staining from sweat, oil and other substances generated from your activity, as PFC are less stain and oil resistant.
- Due to the increased wear from cleaning and reproofing, garments may not have the same life expectancy as the waterproof clothing you may have owned in the past.

Please see Page 2 on instructions on how to clean and reproof your waterproof



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Taking Care of your Clothing

How to Clean your Clothing

Please Note: All waterproof clothing will need regular cleaning and reproofing as and when its required. With newer PFC-free fabrics, this will be much more frequent than you might be accustomed to with waterproof clothing purchased previously. It is estimated that reproofing may be necessary multiple times per year, depending on the activity and frequency of use.

Step 1

- Before washing, make sure all pockets are empty.
- Completely zip up the front, pockets, and pit zips.
- Fasten any loose flaps and straps, and secure all press-studs.
- Gently rinse off any heavy dirt from your garment by hand.
- Clean out the detergent and fabric conditioner trays in your washing machine and run it empty on a rinse cycle to remove any residues.

Step 2

- Hand wash or machine wash according to the garment care label, generally at 30°C.
- Use a technical cleaner like Nikwax Tech Wash or Grangers Performance Wash. Follow directions on the bottle if unsure.
- Choose a gentle wash cycle with a low spin speed and a 30°C temperature setting. If possible, rinse twice and minimize spinning.
- Avoid using powder detergents, fabric softeners, dry cleaning, stain removers, or bleach, as these can damage the garment's performance.
- Save a wash by cleaning multiple waterproof garments at once.

How to Reproof Waterproof Clothing

- If water no longer beads off after washing, it's time to reapply a durable water repellent (DWR) finish.
- Choose a DWR product like Nikwax TX-Direct Wash-In or Grangers Clothing Repel.
- Repeat step 2, but this time use a reproofing chemical, such as Nikwax TX Direct
- If your jacket has a fabric inner lining, consider using a spray-on proofer, such as Nikwax TX-Direct Spray-On or Grangers Performance Repel Plus, to avoid coating the lining.

Dry

- Tumble dry your garments on a warm cycle or line dry them. Avoid drying at high temperatures [providing garment instructions allow].
- Once dry, tumble dry for an additional 20 minutes to reactivate the Durable Water Repellent (DWR) treatment.
- If you don't have a tumble dryer, you can iron the garment on a gentle setting without using steam.
- When ironing, place a towel or cloth over the garment to protect it, and avoid contact with zips or logos.

Finishing Touches

Check all components such as cord locks for damage.

Lubricate zips. We recommend using a product such as Storm Multi-Purpose Lubricator.

The garment can now be stored away in a cool dry place away from direct sunlight ready for its next adventure!

Always remember if you are unsure or would like any advise please don't hesitate to contact us.

OUR TIP

Don't fall into the habit of washing your waterproof jacket or trousers after every wear. You only need to do this if they get dirty (as dirt will impair the performance over time) or if you notice that water is saturating into the fabric and has stopped beading on the surface. If you've had your waterproofs for a lifetime, then it may be worth revamping your wardrobe and buying some new ones...