

Insulation Care Guides

Investing in the right insulated jacket is one of the best decisions you can make, and with proper care, it will serve you well on adventures for many years. To maintain and restore your jacket's warmth and water repellence, follow a few key steps, but always start by checking the care label for specific instructions.

How to Care for your Down Jacket

Down insulation is sourced from geese and ducks, specifically the smallest feathers close to the skin. Generally, goose down offers a higher warmth-to-weight ratio and packs down smaller than duck down.

The warmth of a down jacket, or its "loft," is measured by its fill power. Higher fill power ratings mean the down can trap more warm air, making the jacket warmer and more packable.

The main drawback of down insulation is that it loses its ability to retain heat when wet, as the down clusters stick together. Therefore, down jackets perform best in dry conditions. While some down jackets feature a hydrophobic (water-resistant) coating, they still do not perform as well as synthetic insulation in wet conditions.

Many jackets also come with a DWR (durable water-repellent) coating, which can handle light showers but not prolonged exposure to moisture.

Washing your Down Jacket

We highly recommend having down jackets and sleeping bags professionally cleaned, as the process is technical and can damage the garment if done incorrectly.

However, if you prefer to wash your jacket at home, always check the care label for the correct washing temperature. Use Nikwax Down Wash or a similar product specifically designed for down jackets. For example use the Grangers Down Wash Kit or Nikwax Down Wash Direct.

Drying your Down Jacket

- The best way to dry down is in a tumble dryer. Always check your jacket's care label for the recommended heat settings.
- Every 20-30 minutes, remove the jacket from the dryer, shake it out, and pull apart the clusters. Make sure it is completely dry to avoid clumping, then air it out for a few days.
- A common mistake is tumble drying a down jacket until the outer fabric feels dry, assuming the down clusters inside are also dry. Wet down clusters collapse and clump together, and if left like this, the jacket will become unusable and need replacement.
- Store your jacket uncompressed and make every effort to keep it dry. Always carry a waterproof shell to protect your jacket in case of rain.



How to Care for your Synthetic Jacket

Synthetic fill jackets use man-made polyester strands to mimic the air-trapping down filaments, creating pockets of warm air. These fibres are moisture-resistant and retain their insulating properties even when wet. If you plan to use your jacket in wet conditions or during highly active pursuits, synthetic insulation is the best choice.

Washing your Synthetic Jacket

Synthetic jackets require a slightly simpler care process and can be treated more like regular clothing. However, always check the care label for specific instructions. To machine wash your synthetic insulated jacket, ensure you set the correct temperature as indicated on the care label and use a non-bio detergent without any added fabric softener.

Drying your Synthetic Jacket

Like down jackets, synthetic jackets are best dried in a tumble dryer. Always refer to the care label for recommended heat settings, and periodically check the item by removing it from the dryer and shaking it out. Ensure the garment is completely dry before airing it out for a few days.

If in doubt please do not hesitate to contact us when washing a drying your insulation piece.