

Caring for Your Waterproof Jacket and Over-trousers

Caring for your waterproof garments

Breathable wet weather garments do need a lot of TLC. It might be that with heavy and persistent use, the entire garment needs replacing more often than you think. BUT this depends entirely on how you look after them.

The simplest way to protect your WW gear is to Keep It Clean. Remove dirt, grime, sweat, body oils and other gunk that affects the performance of your gear. If the contaminants build up, they can have a detrimental effect on the glues that bond the waterproof coatings to the outer fabric. Damage to the membrane and delamination of the membranes is not good. while the outside might look ok, it is the inner waterproof membrane that is important.

Arc-Rated WW Gear
WWCBEC-5
WWBOVARC

Washing

Always read the instructions that are on the care-label in the garments.

Warm machine was or hand wash maximum temperature 40C

Spot clean with light sponging

Avoid rigorous rubbing – this will damage membrane

Use a mild washing detergent. Do not use laundry flakes and washing powder which can contain surfactants which can affect the waterproofing.

Do not bleach

Do not use fabric softener

You can use a special washing detergent that has been formulated for waterproof fabrics with membranes. Such as [Grangers Performance Wash](#) or [Nixwax Tech Wash](#)



Drying

Line dry immediately after washing

Dry out of direct sunlight

Tumble dry on low heat maximum temperature 40C

Do not iron

Do not dryclean



After Washing Your Jacket

So now your jacket is clean it is time to think about how water repellent the outer fabric is. Does it keep the rain out? There are a couple of easy tests you can do that will indicate whether the water repellency (DWR) on the outside of the jacket is intact.

You can tip a glass of water over the fabric and if it beads you should be good to go. Or you could stand in the rain and see if the water is beading off. If the water is sitting on or soaking into the fabric you will need to renew the water repellency on the outside

Durable Water Repellency (DWR) is the treatment on the outside of the fabric that makes water bead off the fabric. When the DWR coating has worn off the fabric it is time to reproof your jacket. Both Nixwax or Grangers have great waterproof treatments.

A nice easy way of doing this is to apply a [waterproofing spray](#) to the outside of the jacket and let it air dry.