

Proper Care Instructions for Your Down Jacket!

The benefits of down as filling material are obvious: it provides exceptional warmth, is lightweight, and compressible.

Washing Instructions

Step 1: Down Detergent

The biggest threat to down is regular laundry detergent. It washes away the protective oil coating on the down feathers, causing them to dry out and become brittle. Specialized down detergents have a re-oiling effect that helps maintain the flexibility and loft of the down, thus increasing the lifespan of the garment.

Step 2: Washing the Down Jacket

Only wash the jacket on a gentle cycle at around 30 °C (86 °F), and add two or three tennis balls to the wash. The tennis balls help keep the feathers loose during the washing process. Note that down material requires a lot of space and water, so avoid washing other textiles with it. Do not use fabric softener!

Step 3: Drying the Down

After washing, it is recommended to dry the down jacket in a dryer rather than letting it air dry, as the latter takes significantly longer. The dryer helps to fluff up and separate the dampened feathers, restoring their insulation properties. Pay attention to the temperature setting in the dryer; 30 °C (86 °F) is sufficient. It is better to dry at a lower temperature for a longer duration than using high heat. Adding two or three tennis balls to the dryer drum will help punch the filling and prevent clumping.

Step 4: Storing the Down Jacket

After washing or drying, hang the down jacket in a warm, dry, and well-ventilated area for a few hours. This ensures that any remaining moisture evaporates and allows the down to regain its original volume. It is crucial not to store the down jacket compressed in a stuff sack for an extended period, as this can cause the down to lose its loft. The stuff sack is only intended for short-term transportation. It is better to store the down jacket loosely in a dry and airy place.

What to do if the jacket loses feathers?

It is normal for a jacket to shed feathers. With proper care, this should decrease and eventually stop over time. Down feathers are very fine and soft, but they have a similar structure to regular feathers, including a firm quill. However, the quill is extremely thin. Occasionally, a down feather may find its way through the outer fabric or a seam. In such a case, gently pull the feather back into the chamber from the underside. If you pull it out by the quill, it can enlarge the gap in the fabric, leading to more feathers escaping.

What to do if there is a hole?

If the jacket does develop a small hole from which feathers regularly escape, it can be easily and almost invisibly sealed with a seam sealing product like SeamGrip. For larger fabric damages, such as a tear, repair tapes can be helpful.