

## DofE expedition kit tips:

# KIT CARE GUIDE

### Clothing

- Don't wash waterproofs with normal washing powders. They will damage your kit, and then it won't be as effective.
- For best performance wash them with a specialist cleaner. Then use a reliable proofer, which will increase water repellency and improve breathability.
- If you can see dark patches appearing on waterproof jackets or trousers, this is when you need to reproof the kit.

**Craghoppers Waterproof Atlas Jacket**  
**Nikwax Tech Wash**  
**Nikwax TX Direct**

### Rucksacks

- Most rucksacks aren't waterproof, so using a waterproof rain cover will help make them last longer.
- Line your rucksacks with a dry bag or thick garden waste bag to protect your kit. Lifeventure dry bags are ideal for this.

**Vango Rain Cover**  
**Lifeventure Dry Bags**



### Tents

- If possible, dry the tent before packing it away during your expedition. If not, ensure the tent is dried completely after the expedition; this will stop the tent from getting mouldy and smelly for the next user.
- Unpack and check tents when they are returned to storage. The easiest way to do this is to pitch them, if you have the space.



- Extend the life of tents by increasing waterproofing and UV protection.

**Nikwax Tent and Gear Solarproof**  
**Vango Nova 300**

## PERSONAL KIT



### Footwear

- After an expedition, clean your boots well and let them dry naturally.
- Store boots in a dry, well aired place. Wet boots left in damp rooms or in the car will go mouldy.
- If your boots are still damp, stuff them lightly with newspaper to absorb moisture.
- Improve water resistance of the boots by using waterproofing regularly.

**Nikwax Footwear Cleaning Gel and Fabric and Leather Proof**  
**Hi-tec Bandera Lite WP Women's Walking Boots**



### Sleeping equipment

- Sleeping bags and liners should be cleaned before storing.
- Don't use fabric conditioner if you wash your sleeping bag.
- Let the bag dry naturally on a washing line if possible. Otherwise, use a large tumble dryer on a low heat.
- To re-fluff your sleeping bag, just add a couple of tennis balls to the dryer!
- Using sleeping bag liners is a good idea when borrowing sleeping bags, or if you need the extra warmth. We recommend the Lifeventure Cotton Sleeper Liner.
- Store self-inflating roll mats rolled out with the valve open.

**Lifeventure Cotton Sleeper Liner**  
**Vango Latitude Sleeping Bag**

### Cookware

- Keep the Trangia burner in the yellow plastic bag provided to stop fuel tarnishing and corroding the stove.
- Any excess fuel should be safely stored or disposed of in an eco-friendly way.
- Clean stoves and cookware after use once they're cool. This will stop mould growing and keep the cookware in good condition for future groups.
- Store your gas canisters in a well-ventilated storage area which is not exposed to direct sunlight or any heat source.

**Trangia 25-1UL Stove**

## GROUP KIT

### Maps

- Open out all your maps and look for worn or torn areas, especially on the folds.
- Make sure the maps are legible and that any damage doesn't obscure important information, such as roads, junctions and any steep drops.
- Laminating your maps or using map cases helps prolong their life.

**Silva M-30 Carry Case**

More advice on how to care for and look after your kit, as well as the official DofE Expedition Kit List, can be found at [DofE.org/shop](https://DofE.org/shop)

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