

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



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

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

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

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