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## CARE AND MAINTENANCE FOR GORE-TEX™ PRO DRY WEAR

GORE-TEX Pro is the most rugged and high performing of waterproof GORE-TEX material offerings, and the most appropriate for paddlesports use. It is waterproof, breathable, windproof and abrasion resistant. GORE-TEX products are built to last, giving users great longevity in their investment. However, like any piece of technical gear, care and maintenance is necessary for peak performance as well extending the life of the garment.

### AFTER-USE CARE

To keep your NRS dry wear in the best condition, air dry the garment as soon as possible by allowing it to hang free or lie flat on an open surface. Don't leave it wet and balled up in a gear bag or the trunk of a car for extended periods, as this can cause mold and mildew, and put undue pressure on seams and zippers. If space is limited or you are traveling, roll the garment as loosely as possible until you can hang it.

While unpacking and hanging your garment, if you notice areas that have become soiled or have come in contact with contaminants (such as sunscreen), a light washing with fresh water, even using a soft sponge, will clean the face fabric to maintain maximum waterproofness and breathability. This can be done outside with a hose or indoors in a sink or tub.

Note: Salt water and smoke (if hung near a campfire) are especially hard on fabric, and it is imperative that you thoroughly rinse your GORE-TEX Pro garment with fresh water after every use.

### WHEN TO WASH

How often you wash your dry wear depends on how often you use it. Indications that it is time to wash the dry suit include:

- You are a high-output paddler or spending long sessions in your dry wear. High levels of perspiration, and oils from your skin, coming into contact with the material can negatively impact its breathability.
- Water is no longer beading up on the face fabric of the garment. This means the DWR needs to be recharged in the tumble-drying process.
- The face fabric is noticeably absorbing water or 'wetting out'. Durable Water Repellent (DWR) needs to be reactivated in the wash cycle.

Note: In this stage, users often express that they are getting wet. This is not the case, as GORE-TEX Pro is waterproof. However, the waterlogged, heavy (often cold) face fabric of the garment against the body can give the false impression that it is leaking. Wetting out also diminishes the fabric's breathability, leading to condensation from perspiration on the inside of the garment.

- The garment is noticeably soiled and in need of attention beyond just a thorough rinse with fresh water.

### WASH

To assure the garment holds its shape during washing, close all zippers. Wash the garment alone or with similar items. Do NOT wash with other soiled items. We suggest using non-detergent soaps like Nikwax Tech Wash that are specific to technical outerwear. Wash with warm water (90°F–105°F or 32°C–40°C). If using conventional detergent, less liquid detergent (never powder or fabric softener) than your machine calls 'Max Fill.' Less is better than more. Run the rinse cycle an additional time to remove all soap residue. If your machine allows, use the low-speed spin mode.

## **DRY TO REACTIVATE DWR**

Tumble dry on a warm, delicate setting or line dry until completely dry. Never dry at a high temperature. Once completely dry, tumble dry on a warm, delicate setting for an additional 20 minutes. This is the step that reactivates the DWR.

If you do not have a dryer, you can use an iron. Place a towel between the garment and the iron and use a gentle setting. Never steam.

## **APPLY DWR**

After your GORE-TEX Pro garment is dry, spray or splash water on it to test the DWR. If you are not seeing water bead up on the fabric, it is time to apply DWR. Do not apply DWR to garments that are showing beading.

For hand or machine washing, we suggest Nikwax TX Direct Spray-On or Nikwax TX Direct Wash-In. Follow directions provided on the bottle.

After the DWR application, follow the directions in the Dry to Reactivate DWR section above.

## **DWR and GORE-TEX Pro**

In recent years, manufacturers have become aware of the negative environmental effects associated with the molecular make up of DWR. Since then, materials suppliers such as GORE-TEX began using more environmentally friendly compounds. Newly developed DWR compounds work just as well at waterproofing fabrics but have a shorter shelf life. The shelf life starts at the time DWR is applied to the garment at the factory and may diminish significantly before the time of purchase by the end user. In such cases DWR will require reactivation sooner than a more recently manufactured garment.

Further, shop wear, in which customers and shop staff handle the garment, can leave oil from the skin on the fabric. These contaminants can also affect the performance of the suit prior to it being used on the water. This is not a matter of garment failure. It simply requires reactivating the DWR. It is not unusual to wash and dry your dry wear prior to its initial use.

As always, you can reach out to NRS customer service with any additional questions by calling 877.677.4327 or emailing [service@nrs.com](mailto:service@nrs.com).

## **DRY WEAR MAINTENANCE**

### **Zippers:**

Be sure to lubricate the entry and relief zippers often to assure the best performance. Hard-to-open zippers are not only a nuisance, but tugging on unlubricated zippers puts unnecessary negative pressure on zippers and seams. We suggest Gear Aid Zipper Cleaner and Lubricant.

### **Gaskets:**

Latex gaskets and coated GlideSkin™ neoprene overcuffs on wrists and neck will become dry over time. Be sure to treat the latex gaskets and inside of the GlideSkin overcuffs often with 303 Protectant. Even with great care, latex gaskets will not last the lifetime of your dry suit. Replacements can be purchased at [nrs.com](http://nrs.com). If you need help replacing gaskets, visit [nrs.com](http://nrs.com).