

LONG LASTING PRODUCTS ARE  
BETTER FOR OUR PLANET



# CARE IS SIMPLE. WASH IT. DRY IT. WEAR IT.

## CARE INSTRUCTIONS - GORE-TEX GARMENTS

Challenging environments or exposure to critical work hazards can damage or get your garments dirty. Washing and caring for your professional protective garments is a simple process that should be pursued regularly to sustain and extend the product's longevity. As deviations of requirements might occur depending on the product, please always check your manufacturer's care instructions first.

### Things You'll Need

Washing Machine ♦ Detergent ♦ Dryer (recommended) ♦ Iron, towel or cloth (optional, if no dryer available) / Water Repellent Treatment

## PREPARE



- ♦ Protective garments must be washed separately to avoid deposits of foreign matter (e.g., cotton fluff or lint) on the outer fabric.
- ♦ Before washing, remove detachable metal parts (e.g., spring hooks) and empty pockets. If not, membrane and barrier protection will get damaged.
- ♦ Close all Velcro® fasteners and cover them to avoid deposits (cotton lint, fibers ...) of foreign objects or textile damage.
- ♦ Have the outside fabric (and reflective stripes) facing to the outside to obtain optimum cleaning results.
- ♦ Follow the load capacity of the washing machine specified in the garment manufacturer's care instructions. Typically, fill levels should not exceed 2/3 drum volume.

## WASH



- ♦ Follow the garment manufacturer's washing instructions (usually found on the inner label).
- ♦ Use a small amount of detergent with a neutral pH value (= 7.0).
- ♦ Don't use chlorine or bleaching agents as these can destroy the fibers of your garment and, in the case of Hi vis garments, reduce their luminosity.
- ♦ Don't use fabric softener. This can impair the waterproofness, DWR performance and oil-repellent properties. It can also be highly flammable due to its composition.
- ♦ Use clear water to rinse the garment properly. Removing all chemical residues from the washing process is important to maintain the longevity of the garment.\*

## DRY



- ♦ Before drying, turn the garment right inside out (insulating lining outwards).
- ♦ Protective clothing can be spin-dried. Tumble dry on a warm gentle cycle.
- ♦ If water doesn't bead and run off after washing, you'll need to reapply a durable water repellent (DWR).

\* Please note: All alkaline and possibly flammable detergent residues must be removed during the rinsing process. This requires a total of four rinses. Conventional easy-care wash programs have three rinses. In this case, please repeat the rinse program.

## RE-APPLY DWR



- ◆ Use a DWR product of your choice, available as a pump-spray or a wash-in product.
- ◆ After the application, tumble dry your garment for 20 minutes to activate the DWR treatment or iron the dry garment on a gentle setting (ironing symbol with 2 dots, no steam).
- ◆ Important: Check your manufacturer's care instructions about ironing first.
- ◆ When ironing, cover the garment with a towel or cloth, especially the reflective strips, to protect them.
- ◆ Wash, let it dry and tumble dry it again (Second dry reactivates DWR).

## STORAGE & DISPOSAL



- ◆ To prevent color fading, protective clothing should not be stored in direct sunlight or where there are other sources of UV light.
- ◆ Don't store wet garments.
- ◆ Don't store your garment in the original packaging for more than 12 months. Hang them or remove the non-air permeable packaging.
- ◆ Faulty garments should be disposed. For further information, please contact your garment manufacturer.

## SPECIAL CARE

**Dry cleaning** is particularly effective for soiling that is not water-soluble (e.g., oils, grease, and bitumen). Check on your garments manufacturer information if the garment is suitable for dry cleaning.

- ◆ Dry cleaning is recommended for badly soiled protective clothing.
- ◆ Dry cleaning must only be carried out by a specialist – we recommend cleaning with perchloroethylene (PER) or hydrocarbon.
- ◆ Before cleaning, close all Velcro® fasteners and cover them to avoid deposits (cotton lint, fibers ...) of foreign objects or textile damage.
- ◆ Ensure that no labels are pinned to the clothing as this will damage the membrane.
- ◆ Don't use dry cleaning soap. It's recommended to wash with water after dry cleaning for FR protective garments.
- ◆ Before using the protective garment again, check that it is completely free of any solvent.

### Stain removal

- ◆ Whether it's mud, oil, or other stains, always follow the clothing manufacturer's instructions.
- ◆ Don't use stain removers – only detergents.
- ◆ Make sure to rinse the garment thoroughly before washing.

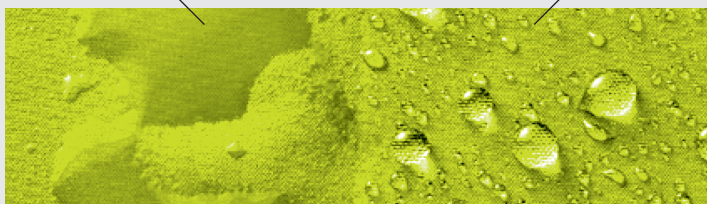
## WHAT IS DWR?

Many GORE-TEX products are treated with an ultra-thin durable water repellent (DWR), a polymer that's applied to the outermost fabric layer.

**DWR reduces the surface tension of the fabric, so that water simply rolls off.**

DWR needs to be reactivated or reapplied

Active DWR



### How it works

If the DWR on the textile is fully functional, water droplets from rain gather on the surface of the DWR coating as round drops and roll off if the textile surface is held at an angle. However, if the DWR on the textile is worn off, water droplets can penetrate into the textile.

### DWR isn't permanent

Regular wear and tear, exposure to sunscreen lotion, dirt, detergents, insect repellent, other materials can shorten the lifespan of the treatment. If that happens water can saturate the outer fabric of your gear making you feel damp and clammy, as if your gear was leaking.

**The good news: restoring the water repellency of your GORE-TEX product is extremely easy.**