

CARE OF SLEEPING BAGS

Troop 22 wants your sleeping bag to last. Here's how:

SYNTHETIC-FILLED: (branded varieties such as Hollofil 808, Hollofil II, Quallofil, Polarguard, Loftguard, Kodofil, Lite Loft, etc. and generic polyester)

1. **WASH BY HAND**. Sponge spots with small amounts of detergent and rinse area well. For general cleaning, **SOAK** in a large tub (bath or laundry). (Modern bags are lightly built to save weight and even front-loading washing machines are hard on them. If you must machine wash, use "Delicate." **NEVER DRY CLEAN** (It takes the silicone coating off the fibers.)

2. **RINSE BY HAND** in several changes of water.

3. **DRYING - DRAIN** the bag by leaving it in the bathtub for several hours. It will be nearly dry by then. Lift out gently, spin dry in washer, and hang to air dry. Do not dry in the direct sun if possible. **NO CLOTHES DRYER IS SAFE - NOT EVEN ON DELICATE CYCLE.**¹

DOWN-FILLED BAGS (and chicken feather-filled too, we suppose)

We don't recommend such bags in our damp climate, but if you must:

1. **WASH BY HAND** as above **BUT USE MILD SOAP** or **SPECIAL DOWN-CLEANERS** (example: "Nu Down"). Water should be warm - **NOT HOT**.

2. **RINSE** very well.

3. **DRYING** - A wet down bag is heavy and can come apart if not handled with care. **LET STAND** for several hours in the bathtub. Then **PRESS OUT** as much water as possible. **DO NOT TWIST OR WRING**. Then carefully lift out, spin in washer or let hang until damp. (Warning: a wet down bag may unbalance washer.) When damp, dry in a large tumble dryer on lowest heat setting with tennis balls or small, clean tennis shoes (It may take several cycles.) or hang to dry.

4. **DRY CLEANING** does not work as well as water and some dry-cleaning solvents ruin down. If your cleaner guarantees his solvent is Stoddard Solvent and won't damage down -- and if you know the route his children take to school, you still need to air out the bag **VERY** well after dry-cleaning because the fumes are poisonous. (You'll have your head down in it on a cold day.) These instructions may also be followed to clean down insulated garments **BUT NEVER** dry-clean anything containing Gore-Tex.

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¹Why not use a dryer? The best fillers (such as Hollofil II and Quallofil) are heat-crimped at 140 F. for more loft. Heat them to 140 F. or above (dryer or closed car on a hot, sunny day), and the curl (loft) comes out, reducing insulation. The bulk of the bag insulates the thermostat in a home dryer, fooling it into pumping out more heat than "delicate" setting would indicate. Laundromat dryers are all too hot. Untold tens of thousands of sleeping bags have been damaged by clothes driers.