

User Manual

Sleeplight™ Down Sleeping Bag

Your new Gossamer Gear Sleeplight is a minimalist down sleeping bag. It is made out of the finest materials, hand-crafted in the United States. To optimize your use and enjoyment of the bag, here are some tips.

Design concept

Most of the bottom of the bag has a 16" - 18" panel with no down, that is only a single layer of 0.85 oz. nylon. Since down provides virtually no insulation value when crushed beneath your body, the SleepLight maximizes the warmth per ounce by keeping the down on top of you, where it provides excellent insulation. The advantage over 'quilt' style sleeping bags is that convective heat losses are eliminated because you are completely enclosed in nylon, even with shorter torso-sized pads. The other benefit of a full nylon bottom is the elimination of the "creepy crawly" factor - you don't have to worry about insects or worse wandering under your quilt in the middle of the night.

Most people will have at least a torso pad under their trunk to provide insulation from the ground. The legs can be insulated by putting your empty pack, stuff sacks or trash compactor bag, food and trash/wrappers (in areas where bears are not an issue) under them. It is not intuitive at all, but you would be surprised how well you can survive without down under you. For the shoulder seasons of early spring and late fall, the addition of a ThinLight™ pad provides much more insulation than would the equivalent weight of down, crushed underneath you. Properly prepared and experienced backpackers have spent many nights sleeping comfortably directly on top of snow, with just a ThinLight pad for bottom insulation.

Insulating clothing

Keep in mind that with an ultralight kit, your insulating clothing is part of your sleep system also. You can adjust the comfort range of the SleepLight by adjusting the clothing that you wear inside it. To maximize your weight savings, you will want to be wearing everything you have brought at night, since that will be the time of coldest temperatures.

Packing and storage

With the small amount of down you will be carrying with a Sleeplight, you want to make sure you are getting maximum loft out of it, since loft equals warmth. Your Sleeplight is not shipped with a stuff sack. We do not recommend using a stuff sack, and design our Gossamer Gear packs to allow room for a sleeping bag to expand within the pack. Of course, you want to keep your down dry, so be sure to line the pack with a trash compactor bag or other durable waterproof liner to enclose your Sleeplight. When not in use, your Sleeplight should be stored completely unstuffed. Water has a 'chilling' effect on the efficiency of your down, so you will want to gain experience at keeping your down dry in your shelter under different conditions. For trips where you expect multiple days of continuous rain/snow with no chance to dry out your bag, down may not be the best choice for your sleeping bag, depending on your shelter choices. Your body heat can be effective at driving dampness out of your bag in the right conditions.

Maximizing loft

To maximize the loft in your bag, build some habits into your backpacking routine. As soon as you get into camp and get your shelter set up, (or even before your shelter is up if the weather is really nice), take your Sleeplight out of your pack and fluff it up. Grab the head opening of the bag, and whip it through the air to 'scoop' air into the bag. Do this repeatedly. Then leave the bag out flat in your shelter. Before retiring, take the bag and hold it horizontally, upside down, by grabbing it where the down stops on each edge. Then gently shake it for about 30 seconds, to get the down in the continuous baffles to concentrate in the top of the bag. Then gently put the bag back in your shelter and climb in. The next morning, upon arising, quickly shake off any frost from the bag, and the sun is out, allow your bag to get some dry time as you prepare breakfast and pitch camp. As you stop for your lunch, take a minute to pull your bag out and dry it in the sun. The inside of your Sleeplight is black to allow for maximum solar gain, so turn the bag inside out once there is no visible moisture on the outside shell.

Sleeping

The Sleeplight is designed without a zipper to minimize weight. Also, the contortions caused by the process of getting into your sleeping bag will generate a nice 'flush' of warmth to start the night, as well as providing evening entertainment for your companions. Since the Sleeplight has no insulation on the

bottom, it is important to keep the uninsulated portion facing down as you turn during the night. You will find it's quite easy to feel, with your hands by your side, where the down/fabric interface is, and where the edge of your sleeping pad is, and it is a simple matter to make minor adjustments after turning.

Cleaning

Clean down is happy down, and dirty down is cold down. The care instructions, from the Nunatak Gear website, are as follows:

1. **Only use commercial washer and dryers.** The reason for this is that most household washers have agitators (pinnacle of plastic that sticks up inside the washing machine) that twist and turn as the machine does it's job; these household washers will rip a down sleeping bag to shreds. Also, the common household dryer is far too small and can melt your gear.
2. **Only use "down soap."** This can be purchased at just about any outdoor retail shop.
3. Prepare the garment by trying to get off all loose dirt, dust, debris, etc.
4. Once at the Laundromat, place the garment inside a large washing machine and start the machine on gentle cycle, warm water. Double rinse or until clear water drains from item.
5. Only use about 2/3 the amount of soap that the down-soap-bottle manufacturer suggests, for most down garment manufacturers use somewhat bad down (600-700+ fill), whereas Nunatak only uses the best 800+ fill that can be found, which also means that much less soap is needed when washing the garment or sleeping bag.

Once the item is done with the washing cycle it is important to follow the remaining steps very carefully.

6. The item will look quite strange once out of the washing machine and through the spin cycle. The down will naturally be all clumped together and water-logged; this is normal, don't freak out. It IS important though, that from now until the item is dry you take very CAREFUL steps in the process of drying.
7. Before putting the item in the dryer, place in on a flat and clean surface. Take a clean towel and press it against the down jacket to try and soak any excess water out of the down clumps. (Don't press really hard though, just medium resistance) This allows the down to squeeze out any excess water before the drying process begins. Do this for about 10 minutes on a full sized sleeping bag.
8. Take the item over to the LARGE COMMERCIAL TUMBLE DRYER and place inside. Dryer **HEAT OUTPUT VARIES GREATLY** from machine to machine. Medium heat is usually sufficient, but use your best judgment. Let it run for 5-10 minutes and pull the item out to check the temp and begin step 9/10.
9. Now that the item has had some time, you want to hand separate the clumps of 800+ fill down, both by patting and gently pulling clumps apart.
10. Return to the dryer for another 15 minute or so spin. Repeat ad infinitum. Get that bag warm and repeat step 8/ 9/10. You might need to do this many times, so really try to get the down in a uniform clump size, so that you can maximize drying surface area. **IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU DONT TRY TO USE OBJECTS TO SHORTCUT THE WORK; THE SHOE OR TENNIS BALL MAY TEAR OR DAMAGE THE DOWN GARMENT /SLEEPING BAG.**

Warranty

Full warranty information is contained on the Gossamer Gear website. Please note that for down products, to be returned for a refund they must be in **new** condition. If you look at the Sleeplight and decide it's not for you, then contact us to receive a RMA number to return it. If you take it out and try it, then it's yours.