

# Clothes

A collection of outdoor gear is laid out on a bed with a white patterned sheet. The items include: a tan hat, a dark blue jacket, a maroon jacket, a red jacket, a grey jacket, a dark blue beanie, a black beanie, a black jacket, a black jacket, a tan jacket, a pair of patterned socks, a pair of grey socks, a pair of black gloves, a pair of red gloves, a pair of red shorts, and a green tank top. The gear is arranged in a grid-like fashion, with some items folded and others laid flat.



# BIG WALL TIPS by Mark Hudon

## Clothes, Bags & Misc. Bivy Stuff

With this setup of clothing I could survive everything from heavy rain to snow to hot sun. All my clothes are synthetic materials which don't absorb water, are warm when wet and dry out quickly.

### Bags

All my clothes fit into two medium Metolius Wall bags and weigh only 9 pounds. On a wall I would use the large size bags since they are easier to rummage around in to find something than if were all stuffed tight medium bags. A stuffed tight bag will be harder to pack into a haul bag. Imagine stuffing footballs



into your haul bag vs. stuffing bags of marshmallows. The marshmallows will be malleable enough to fit into all the odd spots in your haul bag.

I also use the Wall bags for other wall items. I pack like items in like colored bags. Food in blue bags, clothes in Gray, kitchen and technology in Yellow.

I started to think that I'd put all my dinners in one bag, breakfasts in another, cold clothes in one bag, warm clothes in another but then I began to envision dropping one bag and losing all of my breakfasts, or all of my cold weather clothes. Sort of like the same question: Do you rack all your small, medium, and large stoppers in sets on their own biners? Better not drop any one biner, eh? You'll be full out of that size of stopper.



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Even further, you know how you can sometimes stuff a jacket into its own pocket, making a nice tight package? Well how about you have the bag it's in standing on your ledge, you move to get something and hit it with your knee, the bag falls over and that nice tight



package rolls out of the bag and gleefully bounces over the edge, never to be seen again. That's why I don't do that.

After every wall I inspect my bags since after I set up my ledge I empty my haul bags and clip everything to the ledge straps for easy access. Once I'm settled down on my ledge I don't like to have to get up to get anything, I want it all at my finger tips.

I had Russ over at Fish make me a big bag out of his "Beef Bag" material that I use as a wall garbage bag. It's amazing all the garbage you generate on a wall! Make sure he puts a drain hole in it. During the day I clip it to my Waste Case tether line and once I get my ledge set up, it's clipped to the middle strap, hanging off the edge.

I always have coffee on a wall that I make with a single cup cone with a paper filter. I use paper filters since they require no water to clean up. I also like them because they leave no grounds or residue in the cup like a french press or gold filter would. I have a fine mesh net bag that I put the wet filters into and hang it over the edge till they dry out. Once I pack up and get moving I put that bag into the garbage bag.

### Misc. Bivy Stuff

Another great thing to have is a Big Wall Sponge. You can get this kind of thing at most camping stores, maybe even somewhere in the Valley and REI. Of course, they don't call it a Big Wall Sponge but merely a Camp Sponge. Believe me, you'll use it since spilling coffee, water, beer and anything else liquid is a common occurrence on a ledge. It's important to keep everything dry while on a wall since anything that gets very wet





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is going to stay wet. When the bad weather hits (in two out of four recent trips, the five day weather forecast of perfect weather has suddenly changed to 40% chance of rain for the next day!) you want everything dry and ready to do it's job.

Another thing to think about is keeping your sleeping bag dry. Not that your sleeping bag is your last line of defense against freezing to death (it's happened) but it's an important line of defense. Wearing all of my clothes, inside of my sleeping bag, I can stay warm for a long time and probably long enough for the weather to change or long enough for a rescue to get to me. An important thing here is that you need to keep your sleeping bag dry at all costs. On Zenyatta Mondatta one night, I was not under, but close to, a drip that was falling from somewhere near the Zodiac. It wasn't hitting me often but the drips seemed like they were the size of nickels or quarters and it took only five or ten to hit and I'd be soaking wet! I slept that night in my bivy sack. I could have put up my ledge fly but it was a clear night out and I wanted to enjoy the stars.

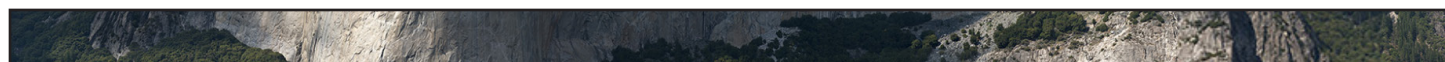


If you were in a big storm, you would be under your fly trying to stay warm and comfortable. I have a Kindle, an iPod with speakers and an iPhone to keep me busy. Another thing that will keep you busy is staying dry. Sure, you're under your fly but it might be violently windy and water will be blowing up onto your ledge from below. Even if it's calm, you might be under a severe drip, your fly might leak and at the very least, you'll be dealing with condensation on the inside of the fly. All those little drips will slowly and insidiously be getting you and your stuff wet. The wetter you get, the less time you have before you have to bail or need a rescue. My bivy sac provides an additional barrier

between the wet and cold weather outside and me staying dry, warm, and safe.

Another advantage to a bivy sac is that it adds quite a bit of warmth to your sleeping setup. An added luxury is a sleeping bag liner. I find that the nylon of any sleeping bag feels sticky and slippery against my dirty and sweaty body after a few days of wall climbing. A fleece liner or even a thin backpacking liner takes care of this problem and it makes my bag feel so much warmer and comfy.

Since I'm on the subject of sleeping bags, I must say that you would have to be a full-on freakin' idiot to take a down bag up on a wall. If the bag gets the least bit wet it'll be heavy and useless and will not dry out. I don't care what the weather forecast is and I don't care how good you think your bivy sac and ledge rain fly is, in a bad storm a down bag is going to get wet, it's going to stay wet and if you need a rescue you better hope it comes sooner than later. A down bag ain't gonna make any points with John Dill when he's interviewing you after your rescue either.



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I use a Thermarest ProLite self-inflating mattress for comfort and insulation below my sleeping bag. I turn it so that I can lean back against the wall and enjoy the sun waking up the Valley in the morning and the stars coming out at night. I have a net bag that I pack it into.

### The Body Maintenance Bag

On a wall your body is going to take a beating. Sun is going to burn the backs of your arms and your neck. The reflected heat off the wall is going to dry out your lips and the typical overuse of your hands will cause them to swell and the skin to crack. In my “Body Maintenance Bag” I have Band-Aids, Athletic Tape, Neosporine, Advil, Mole Skin, nail clippers, a small pair of sissors, sun screen and hand lotion. Silicone ear plugs are a must if rain is beating down hard on your rain fly or your partner is sawing logs. I usually go to the grocery store before a wall and buy a package of scentless Handi-Wipes. I break up the one package into four or five smaller packages and put them in the Kitchen bag, the Waste Case, the haul bag pocket and the Body Maintenance Bag. The Handi-Wipes also go a long way to maintaining a civil level of body odor on a wall and can also augment your toilet paper supply. Speaking of toilet paper, you know, of course, that once toilet paper gets wet it becomes a useless blob of pulp, don’t you? Paper towels are the way to go. I’m a heavy paper user so I estimate my needs and double that count. I pull the sheets off the roll, fold them up and put them in Zip-Lock bags and then in various other bags including the Waste Case.



### The Technology Bag

The Technology Bag is pretty self explanatory. It holds the batteries for my cell phone, camera, vid camera and headlamps along with the various memory cards and cords if I need any, along with my 2 way radio and iPod and speakers. I also have a micro-fiber cloth and chamoix cloth each in zip-lock bags to clean and dry off my electronics if they need it. For my Kindle, I found a water tight Tupperware type container that fits it perfectly. The battery in that thing lasts a month so I just make sure to charge it up before leaving the ground and make sure to have a couple unread books ready to go.

