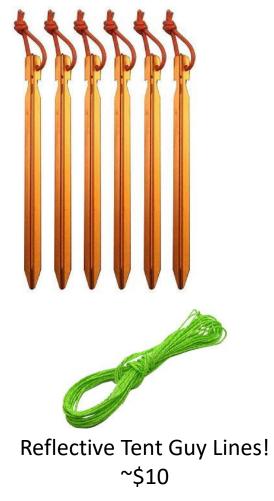
Tents

Tent Stakes included with cheaper tents will last 1-2 trips. I like the stakes below. Bright colors are great for finding in the dark. Angled aluminum stakes for rigidity and strength. ~\$11

Rain Fly top cover means that anything below the fly that touches the wall will be wet...guaranteed. Wet Campers = Unhappy Campers



Remember, most tents do not trap heat for warmth. Tents provide shelter from Wind, Rain, Frost and Snow. Your sleeping bag and foam pad / air mattress will keep you warm.



Backpacks – Multiple Day/Overnight

This is a "no single right answer" topic. Put 10 Hikers or Campers in a room and you'll get 10 different opinions. Research customer reviews. Choice of Internal Frames vs. External Frames; both have benefits. Try on as many packs you can to learn the fit. Last, find something that fits your budget. Remember, everything goes on sale eventually. Find a pack you like, be patient and compare multiple sites for sales.

Alps Mountaineering – Red Tail 65 Hikerdirect.com Normally ~\$150. Previously on sale for \$119.

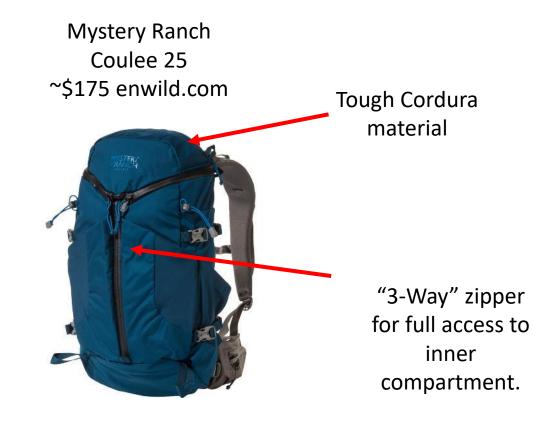


Backpacks – Day Hike

Osprey Talon 26 ~\$140 Amazon

Waist Strap Pouches Alps Mountaineering Solitude 24 ~\$90 hikerdirect.com

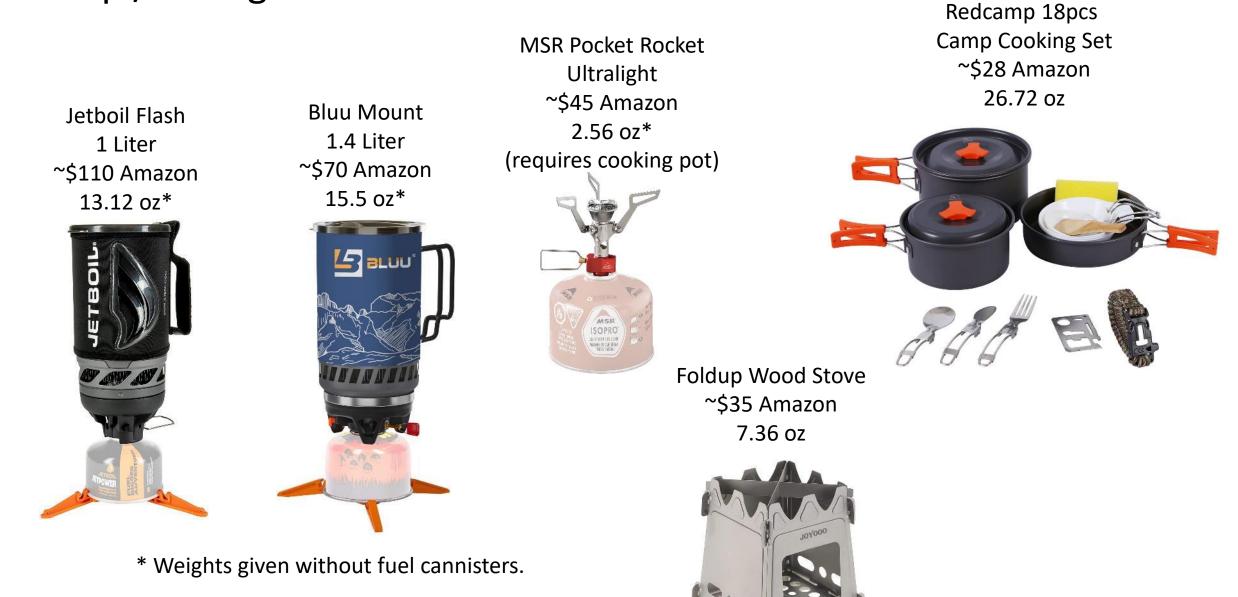




Look for:

- Water Bladder or capable
- Stitching Double Stitching lasts
- External pockets for quick access of small items
- User Reviews across multiple sites
- Of course, comfort.

Camp / Hiking Stoves



Sleeping Bags / Sleep Systems

Klymit KSB Large 20° ~\$180 Amazon



Kinda expensive, but excellent. Shop the sales. Oaskys ?° 3 Season ~\$26 Amazon



Too Cheap likely = Too Cold! Waterproof Bivy Sack Sleeping Bag fits inside -Optional-~\$35-200 Amazon



Poncho Liner aka "Military Woobie" Never leave home without it. ~\$40 Amazon



Shop for and/or Consider:

- Large/Tall size if needed
- Down vs. Synthetics
- Mummy vs. Rectangle shapes
- Temperature Rating
 - 20° is good for most
 - 0° for cold winter camping
- Poncho Liner / "Woobie" is a must!
- Waterproof stuffsacks

Sleeping Bag Storage Sack ~\$20 Amazon

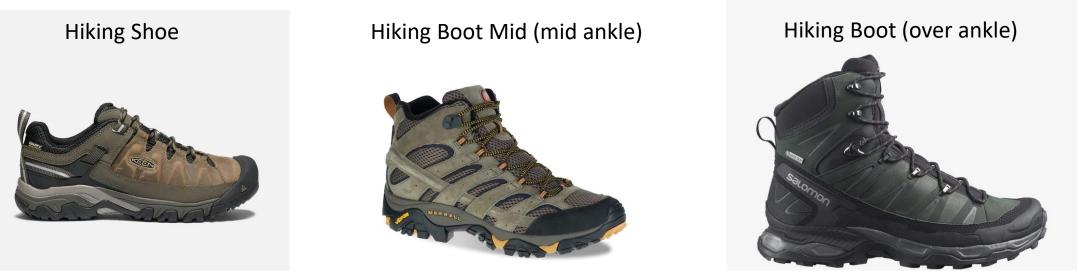
NOTE: Try and *not* store sleeping bags in stuff sacks. The insulation degrades over time.



Hiking Boots / Hiking Shoes

There's a lot of brands to choose from. Like all shoe brands, each has different levels of cost to choose from. For all the brands, there's 3 styles of boot to select from and then choose waterproof or not waterproof.

Common brands: Merrell, Keen, Salomon, Columbia, Vasque, Lowa and many more.



Things to keep in mind:

- More leather on the shoe typically means less moisture escape. This might mean cold feet in winter and sweaty feet in the summer. More fabric means more venting and possibly less waterproofing.
- You get more ankle support in a Hiking Boot than a Hiking Shoe. However, the Hiking Shoe and Mid Boot can be a lot cooler in warmer weather.
- Nothing is waterproof if the water flows over the top of the shoe and down the ankle! "Waterproof" may not be worth it.
- Name brands are OK; comfort is everything. Budget \$50-60 for pretty good shoes and \$100+ for boots. Shop the sales!