

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**



Reflective Tent Guy Lines!
~\$10

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.

Tents

Vent in Rain Fly to release moisture from inside.

Rain Fly extends down to reinforced floor.

Sleeping area is well-ventilated to prevent moisture build-up from sleeping.

Moisture = Cold!



Misc. Buying Tips:

- Name Brands can be 2-3 times more expensive and *may not* necessarily better. (\$180+)
- Do your homework and Research reviews.
- Ground tarps or “Tent Footprints” are a must to stay dry! (\$20-60)



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.**



This pack has some basic features to look for.

- Adjustable harness for growing boys.
- Hydration pocket for water bladders.
- Waist strap pouches (a personal favorite).
- Rain Cover (for entire pack)
- Multiple access points for interior
- Internal compartment for sleeping system.

Backpacks – Day Hike

Osprey
Talon 26
~\$140 Amazon



Waist Strap
Pouches

Alps Mountaineering
Solitude 24
~\$90 hikerdirect.com



Light nylon
material

Mystery Ranch
Coulee 25
~\$175 enwild.com



Tough Cordura
material

“3-Way” zipper
for full access to
inner
compartment.

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

Jetboil Flash
1 Liter
~\$110 Amazon
13.12 oz*



Bluu Mount
1.4 Liter
~\$70 Amazon
15.5 oz*



MSR Pocket Rocket
Ultralight
~\$45 Amazon
2.56 oz*
(requires cooking pot)



Redcamp 18pcs
Camp Cooking Set
~\$28 Amazon
26.72 oz



Foldup Wood Stove
~\$35 Amazon
7.36 oz



* Weights given without fuel canisters.

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.

Hiking Shoe



Hiking Boot Mid (mid ankle)



Hiking Boot (over ankle)



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!