



Shopping For a Ski Jacket



Waterproofing & Breathability

WHAT DO ALL THOSE NUMBERS MEAN?



Waterproof Ratings for Ski Jackets

How much moisture can pass from the outside through the jacket — the higher the number, the more waterproof.



Rating (in mm)	Water Resistance	Best Suited For
Under 1,500	Minimal to no water resistance	Dry snow flurries or light drizzle for very short time period, good for skiing on sunny days
1,500 to 5,000	Some water resistance but not waterproof	Very light rain or snow but not for extended time period, not likely to stay dry if you slide in the snow
5,001 to 10,000	Waterproof under light pressure	Good for light rain or snow, can handle some "falls" in the snow and still stay dry
10,001 to 15,000	Waterproof under moderate pressure	Will stay dry in moderate rain and heavy snow, as well as some sliding and sitting in the snow
15,001 to 20,000	Waterproof under high pressure	Good in heavy rain and wet snow, will stay dry under most Pacific Northwest (PNW) or back country conditions
Over 20,000	Waterproof under very high pressure	Can handle heavy rain and wet snow, even under extreme conditions especially w/ ratings over 25K

Moisture Vapor Transmission Ratings (MVTR)

How much moisture can pass from the inside of the jacket to the outside — the higher the number, the more breathable it is.



MVTR (g/m ² /24h)	Breathability	Best Suited For
Under 10,000	Low	Will trap moisture in jacket; good for low level activities
10,000 to 20,000	Moderate	Good for most skiers who ski at moderate levels of activity
Over 20,000	High	Good for high energy skiing, but depending upon material may mean sacrificing water proofing



Resistance to Evaporative Heat Transfer (RET)

Measures the resistance to evaporation of moisture from the inside — the lower the number, the more breathable the jacket will be.

RET Rating	Breathability	Best Suited For:
Under 6	Extremely breathable	Comfortable at higher activity rate
6 to 13	Good to very good	Comfortable at moderate activity rate
13 to 20	Satisfactory to acceptable	Uncomfortable at high activity rate
20 to 30	Unsatisfactory or slightly breathable	Moderate comfort at low activity rate
Over 30	Unsatisfactory or not breathable	Uncomfortable and short tolerance time



Ultimately, the best ski jacket for you will be a balance of waterproof-ness and breathability, based upon how "active" a skier you are — and the weather conditions.

