

# Eskimo Windproof Clothing Trick

Wind Proof Survival Clothing - Just Add Water!

Its 10 degrees below zero F (-23° C) this morning (December 18).

It gets much colder than that in these parts but I wanted to show you a wilderness winter survival trick you can use when it's very cold, windy, and you do not have proper clothing.

As you may know from your survival schooling, in cold temperatures wind will rob your body of heat very quickly. Known as "wind chill", even a relatively warm (in terms of true winter survival) +15° F (-9° C) with a brisk wind of 25 mph will actually feel like it is -4° F (-20° C).

With an ambient temperature of minus 20° F (-29° C) that number goes down to minus 51° F (-46° C)! At these low temperatures exposed flesh freezes within seconds. The wind cuts like a knife right through unprotected clothing and poses a threat to survival for those who are unprepared with proper gear and winter clothing.



Windproofing Wool Pants

Wind-chill during winter survival must be dealt with. If your smart and wind-chill is dipping into the -30° F (-34° C) and -50° F (-46° C) degree range you will seek shelter and build a fire for warmth. If not, you will have to adapt as best as you can in order to survive in the winter wilderness.

The best clothing system for winter survival is to dress in layers with the outer layer made of wind resistant materials like leather or a man-made outer shell. Without this outer layer high winds will cut right through ordinary fabrics and you will freeze very quickly.

But what do you do if you find yourself in extremely windy, cold conditions with no wind resistant materials? Perhaps your plane has crashed or your vehicle is stuck and you are trying to walk out to safety. Maybe you were just out for a day hike in beautiful weather when a sudden wintry gale takes you by surprise.



Blot With Snow

If the temperature is below 0° F (-18° C) and you have some extra clothing you're in luck because nature can provide you with a wind proof outer shell at no cost. All you need is to know this Eskimo winter survival trick.

1. Find some unfrozen water. Parts of streams often stay open late into the winter. Chop a hole in the ice of a stream or pond if you have to, or melt some snow if you can.
2. Dip your shirt or pants into the water so that they are soaked through. Be very careful not to get wet yourself! (see first photo).
3. Blot out the excess water by rubbing the garment in snow. At these low temperatures snow is typically dry and powdery. It will readily absorb water. (second photo showing thermometer at -10° F).
4. Hang the article of clothing on a nearby bush to harden in the intense cold. It won't take long.



Survival Ice Wind Pants

Once frozen hard, you have yourself an armor shell virtually impervious to the wind. Because the temperature is so cold and you are wearing layers of clothing that keep your body warmth in, this outer shell will not melt while you are wearing it. Once you walk in them for a short way the thin

ice will crack in all the right places; the fit and feel will be perfect and tailor made to your movements.

In the series of pictures you can see me standing next to the ice wind pants I made. They are so stiff I leaned them against a stack of firewood. Note the size of these wool pants, meant to be worn over one, two or even three layers of inner clothing as part of the cold weather layering system I advocate for winter survival.

I have often used this winter survival trick inadvertently while running survey lines in the mountains and Great North Woods of Maine during very cold winter days. As my body moisture migrated to the outer layer of clothing it would freeze into a thin, impenetrable coating of ice augmented by balls of snow clinging to the thick wool pants.

In high latitudes darkness and rapidly dropping temperatures come early. As the cold intensified, I felt like a knight in ice armor clanking back to the vehicle at the end of the workday. However hard the cold north winds blew, I was warm!

Original at: <http://www.survivaltopics.com/survival/eskimo-windproof-clothing-trick/>