

HOW WE TESTED

PS Rain Check

Three women, sizes 6 to 8, with different body types tested each jacket and each pair of trousers. These tests gave us our data on fit, ease of donning and doffing, and breathability. Testers spent a lot of time looking closely at the details of the jackets and trousers: zippers, fleece, storm flaps, pockets, pocket placement, hood beak and brim, hood fit, internal and external cuffs, Velcro fastenings, jacket and trousers adjustments, cut, color, comfort, and especially fit.

Water-resistance Tests: Testers wore each suit under an outdoor shower for five minutes to determine whether the hood, neck closures, and extremity fas-

teners would keep out water. Jackets and trousers were worn in a heavy rainstorm for 10 minutes to test water resistance.

Wind-resistance Test: Jackets and bibs were worn in front of a heavy-duty industrial pedestal fan blowing 20-25 knots. The fan was then placed out in a heavy rainstorm, and the tests were run with the real-life rain combined with an additional 20 knots of fan wind.

Fastener Tests: All primary zippers were zipped up and down two-dozen times to determine how quickly wear and tear sets in. Testers looked at how quickly and easily one could load the zipper and zip up each jacket. In another

test, testers used the zippers with gloved hands to see how hard it was to grasp the zipper. Zippers were examined for durability and non-corrosive material and coatings. Velcro fasteners were opened and closed 50 times each to see if the closures lost their ability to adhere.

Reflectivity Test: Each jacket and jacket hood was examined for reflective material. Jackets and trousers were examined at night with a spotlight. Testers looked closely at patches, tabs, and piping. Reflective devices with prismatic construction showed a tendency to perform better.