



# WATERPROOF

## WORK GEAR

## BUYING GUIDE

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Site + Safety  
Supplies

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Being in New Zealand, we experience a lot of wet and cold weather. And no one likes being wet and cold while they work.

The trouble is, not all wet weather gear works that well, That's why you need the good stuff.

And before you think you can't afford the good stuff, think about the price of not having it. If your team are warm and dry out in the rain they'll keep working. If they're wet and cold they'll huddle in the truck. Work done vs work not done.

That's why you need good wet weather gear. It's all about productivity. But what should you look for when selecting quality wetweather gear? There are three things to focus on:

1. The Fabric
2. The Garment Construction
3. Standards Compliance

And here's what you need to know...

# 1. THE FABRIC:

## 3 LAYER FABRICS ARE THE MOST WATERPROOF

Waterproof fabrics generally consist of multiple layers meshed together with either 2, 2.5, or 3-layers. With a 3-layer fabric, the layers include an external waterproof fabric layer, an internal waterproof and breathable membrane and an additional bonded protective lining. These 3 layers are bonded together to make a technically efficient, breathable lightweight fabric. 3-layer fabrics are suitable for just about all weather conditions, including torrential rain.

## AIM FOR THE HIGHEST WATER RESISTANCE RATING - 20,000MM



Manufacturers typically rate jackets using two numbers. The first describes how water resistant it is. This is typically a number from 1,500 to 20,000. Water resistance ratings are measured using a Hydrostatic Head test. The fabric is pulled tight under a 1-inch diameter sealed tube of water. This is then observed over 24 hours to ascertain how many millimetres of water the fabric can withstand before it soaks through. So a 20,000 rating means the fabric can withstand 20,000mm of water over 24 hours. Put Simply:

- A rating up to 10,000 is enough to handle light to average rain for a short amount of time.
- Ratings between 10 - 15,000 can handle a moderate amount of rain for much longer
- Rating between 15,000 and 20,000 or higher can handle heavy, intense rain over a prolonged period.

## GO FOR BREATHABILITY



When choosing gear, it's important to balance protection from rain and cold on the outside with the ability to let perspiration escape from the inside. Breathability also has an associated rating, which you normally find after the water-resistance rating. Expressed in grams, it represents how much water vapour can move through one square meter of fabric, from inside to out, in a 24-hour period.

So if a jacket has a 4000 breathability rating that means 4000 g of water vapour (aka sweat) can move through 1 m<sup>2</sup> in 24 hrs.

- Rating up to 10,000 g/m<sup>2</sup> is adequate for daily activities.
- Above 10,000 g/m<sup>2</sup> is better for active pursuits such as hiking and skiing.

## 2. THE GARMENT CONSTRUCTION:

MINIMISE SEAMS (AND THEY MUST BE HEAT SEALED)



For jackets and trousers to be 100% waterproof they will also need to have taped seams. Taped seams are heat sealed to stop water coming through the stitching. And if you can, go for garments with minimal seams, for example, seamless shoulders on jackets. The fewer seams the better, because even when seams are heat sealed they're a risk point for water ingress.

### OTHER HANDY FEATURES

adjustable hoods on jackets are also helpful for keeping rain out. For trousers look for lower leg gussets to go over work boots. And don't forget to make sure you have all the pockets you need and that these are protected from the weather.

### 3. STANDARDS COMPLIANCE:

You'll notice some garments list standards compliance on their labels and promotion. Here are the standards to look out for:

- AS/NZS: 4602 for High visibility safety garments
- AS/NZS: 1906 for Retroreflective materials and devices for road traffic control purposes
- AS/NZS: 4399 for Sun protective clothing

If garments have these standards they will have been made with purpose. Therefore tried, tested and specially made with jobs like yours in mind.

Here at 3S Site + Safety Supplies, we're passionate about supplying the right gear for your safety and comfort. And that includes the gear that'll keep you warm and dry — pretty important over the upcoming winter months.



**IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR GOOD WATERPROOF GEAR, HERE ARE OUR TOP SUGGESTIONS.**



**Storm Pro Premium  
Jacket O/Blk**



**Bison Stamina TTMC-W  
soft shell**



**Storm Pro Premium Ov  
Trou O/Bl**



**Storm Pro Premium  
Bib Pant O/Blk**

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Got any questions? Give me (Clinton) a call on 0800 102 996 or **Shop Online**