

## The 'low-down' on down:

### 1. The benefits of down:

- It has a better warmth to weight ratio; meaning it keeps you warmer for less weight than synthetic materials.
- A natural material to keep you warm (goose or duck down)
- Resilient & durable if cared for properly—keeps loftiness/warmth for years
- Compressible
- Lasts longer than synthetic fibers (which break down over time regardless of care)

### 2. What gear can you buy in down material

- Jackets, sweaters and vests
- Hats
- Booties
- pillows
- Sleeping bags
- Quilts

### 3. Brands that offer down gear

- Patagonia
- Western Mountaineering
- Mountain Hardwear
- Black Diamond
- Nemo

### 4. Variances of down

- Lightweight vs. heavyweight
- Treated Down (making it water resilient or water proof)
- Different fill levels—different levels of warmth (450-900; 900 being the lightest, warmest, and priciest)
- Different baffling patterns
- Duck or Goose: equally efficient insulators; effectiveness depends on fill power
- Down blended with synthetic

### 5. Drawbacks of down

- Higher priced than most synthetics
- Special washing instructions
- Higher degree of care needed to prevent damage
- Typically not waterproof
- Long drying time
- Animal materials (non-vegan friendly)