

Preparing for Winter

What To Buy

Tips

- **Layering is super important!**
The amount of layers needed depend on the temperature, the material of your layers and how good your jacket is. For example, on windy days of -5C, I wear a beanie, a Uniqlo heat-tech + another long sleeve + a windbreaker down jacket for my top, and a heat-tech leggings + thick jeans for my bottom, and wool socks + winter boots. I walk to campus and back, so I'd say this is good for ~30mins - 1 hour of walking outside at a time. I try not to over-layer because all indoor spaces in Ithaca are heated, so you also don't want to sweat indoors
- **Wool/Heat-tech** is a good material for layering, gloves, and socks, as long as they don't get wet
- **Check the temperature ranges before buying a jacket**
Bear in mind, Ithaca can reach -20C on our coldest days! So, definitely prioritize function over fashion. Most outdoor jacket brands have a temperature range that it can keep you warm for. Get one that goes down to at least -10C
- **Down jackets** are good
- Ideally get jackets or coats that are also **windbreakers**. Ithaca gets super windy and it'll feel colder than there actual temperature. Windbreakers will save your life
- **Parkas** (long coats that cover til your knees or lower) are nice but not necessary as long as you layer your pants to keep warm
- Get **winter boots** for warmth and to prevent slipping on icy paths. Luckily doesn't happen very often since Cornell maintains them pretty well
- **For skiing:** bare minimum are **waterproof** pants, gloves, and jacket. So if you fall on snow you won't get wet and cold
- **Heat packs / "hot hands"** are sand packs that warm up when you shake them. Nice to have inside pockets to keep your hands warm. Can get from pharmacy
- **Gloves:** helpful to buy E-tip gloves so you can use devices with your glove on (I used Uniqlo, but the E-tip stopped working after it got wet. North Face E-tip is more reliable, but more worth it if you buy from an outlet/discounted).
- I don't wear gloves or scarfs daily so maybe someone else can add in

Good Quality Jacket Brands:

- **Patagonia** - thin but super warm. Expensive but they have official secondhand ones at **Worn Wear online**. Patagonia has an ironclad guarantee where you can send the products back for repair/replacement
- **Uniqlo** down jackets, relatively affordable
- **Columbia**
- **The North Face**
- **LL Bean**
- **Canada Goose**, but quite overpriced

Layering Brands:

- **Uniqlo Heat-tech**

Good Quality Boots Brands:

- All of the above
- **Timberland**
- **Dr. Martens**

Winter gears are expensive, and Cornell may help pay:

- If you qualify, you can apply for **Cornell's Access Fund**. Winter gear – Up to \$250 (includes a winter coat, winter boots, winter hat, winter scarf, and winter gloves).
<https://scl.cornell.edu/belonging-support-services/centers-student-equity-empowerment-and-belonging/first-generation-low-income-student-support/access-fund>

Preparing

In Ithaca



For Winter



What you'll need

Layers!

Temperatures can vary a lot ...even within one day, or from building to building. Dressing in layers, with a [merino wool/silk base layer](#) (shirt and ALSO pants in really cold temps) can keep you comfortable all day!

Accessorize

Gloves, hats, and even a [neck gator](#) can protect you against icy blasts

Watch your step!

Sidewalks get treacherous with black ice. Invest in hiking or [snow boots](#) with good treads, or even traction cleats to snap on over your shoes

A warm jacket

Thigh length [jackets](#) will give you the most cosy coverage, and [down-fill power rating](#) of at least 600 is the best insulated

Thick Socks

Wool or [wool-blend socks](#) are also water-resistant to prevent sweaty feet!



Where you'll find

In Ithaca

[Ithaca reuse center](#) not only has warm second-hand clothes, but also [secondhand skis](#) and skates to make the most of your winter adventures!

[Platos closet](#) has the lowest prices for clothing in all of Ithaca...but it might take some digging through racks

[Target](#) and [Walmart](#) are good places to search for affordable basics and outdoor wear

[Eastern Mountain Sports](#) the coming-soon [REI](#) have top-of-the-line outdoor winter wear and equipment

Online

[LL Bean](#) is a classic for winter outerwear and sweaters. They also now have a '[pre-loved](#)' collection of gently used clothing for lower prices. [Patagonia](#) has a similar program called [Worn Wear](#) that allows you to trade in your old gear for new

[Campor](#) is an outdoor lovers staple carrying all major outdoor wear brands of clothing and equipment. Their '[deals](#)' page often has great discounts

**Helpful Hint - Msc students may qualify for up to \$250/yr of funds for winter clothes, depending on their financial aid package. Visit [Cornell's access fund page](#) for details!*