

Consumer Buying Tips

The Right Gloves

To get our hands on the best gloves, we evaluated 23 pairs in our lab for insulation, water repellency, and washability where applicable, and had real women try them on and assess warmth in our climate-controlled room set at a chilly 30 degrees.



BEST FOR DRESS

Opt for leather with a water-resistant finish and a wool or cashmere lining. For washable, choose a nylon- or polyester-spandex blend with knit or fleece lining. Dress gloves tend to be sold in numeric sizes, with wrist length measured by how many buttons would be needed to fasten them. To avoid gaps between coat cuff and glove, pick a 3- or 3.5-button length.

1 Isotoner Cashmere-Lined Smooth Leather 3.5-Button Glove (\$60) is both elegant and water repellent.

2 The classic Isotoner Spandex 3-Button With Leather Palm Strips (\$40) still looks great after multiple washes.



EVERYDAY CASUAL

When running errands, you want gloves that are toasty but also flexible. Fleece, polyester, and spandex are the optimal materials, and glove construction should have at least two layers (an outer shell and a lining) to trap air for warmth. When trying gloves on, be sure the elastic at the wrist is snug, and the glove is long enough to overlap the jacket cuff.

3 Isotoner Ultra Dry Waterproof Hybrid Glove With Gathered Wrist (\$35) will keep your hands warm and dry.

4 Isotoner Ecosentials Stretch Fleece Commuter Gloves (\$32) earned a thumbs-up on style and comfort.



TOPS FOR WARMTH

The toastiest gloves should be made of three layers: a waterproof outer shell, an insulation layer (down or a synthetic fill), and an inner liner to wick away sweat. If the gloves will be used in active pursuits, look for a liner that can be removed if you get too warm. Also, gripping fabrics on the palm and fingers help dexterity.

5 The warmest winner is Cloudveil Troller Mitt (\$80), with water-resistant leather, PrimaLoft insulation, and a soft microfleece lining.

6 L.L.Bean Ascent Snow Sport Glove (\$89.50) has a waterproof shell and a fleece lining that can be worn separately.

GHRI INSIGHTS

Coat-Buying Advice

Here's how to choose the perfect outerwear to keep warm. To stay extra snug, don't forget to top your look with a cozy hat.

- **Before shopping**, think about when and where you'll be wearing the coat. The less active you'll be plus the colder your climate, the warmer a coat you'll want.

- **For ultimate warmth**, look for wool or down (ideally, a fill power of 500 or more—the higher the number, the denser the insulation) or a combo of the two. Consider an exterior fabric that's water-resistant, like nylon or polyester. Some are washable—a consideration especially if you buy a light color. If you're sensitive to down, opt for synthetic fills like Thinsulate or PrimaLoft.

- **Check for design details** that will keep out the cold, such as a waist or bottom drawstring and a flap over the zipper.

- **If you live where** the weather fluctuates or you're always running around, buy a coat with a zip-out lining made of wool, down, or fleece. The shell and lining can be worn separately or together.

- **For a dress coat**, look for a wool one that buttons all the way to the neck. Double-breasted and longer styles are warmest. Precious fibers like angora, cashmere, and mohair look pretty, but are delicate and can't take the wear a coat usually gets. For the look and the durability, pick wool blended with no more than 10 percent of fancier fibers.