



# EQUIPMENT CARE

## Mountaineering Equipment

The key to caring for mountaineering equipment is to keep it dry.

### Plastic Boots

#### At the OTC:

Try on the boots before you take them home. Wear the same socks that you will be using on your trip. Take a walk around the room to ensure that the boots fit properly. You should have very little heel rise when walking.



#### In the Field:

Be advised that wearing the inner bootie around camp without the plastic shell increases the odds that the plastic will tear or get punctured.

#### After your trip:

Remove the liner from the boot and set it out to dry. This should prevent mildew from forming. If mildew is already present, wipe the inside of the boot and the liner with a mixture of 1/2 cup of Lysol and a gallon of water.



### Snowshoes, Ice Axes, and Crampons

#### At the OTC:

Double check all the straps and buckles before you take the gear home. Make sure that the gear is working properly for your safety.

#### In the Field:

Store crampons in their case and cover the sharp ends of the ice axes with rubber covers. This will prevent puncturing yourself and the rest of your gear.



#### After the Trip:

The equipment should be dried off at the end of a trip. If rust has started to develop, the areas can be gently

scrubbed with steel wool to remove the rust. Do not file or sharpen the gear. These alterations will be performed by the trained rental staff. If there is any question about the sharpness of the equipment, please see them before you leave.



## Ski/ Trekking Poles

### At the OTC:

Extend the pole to assure that it is in working order.

### In the Field:

Duct tape can be stored around the shaft of a ski pole as an emergency repair tool. The tape can be used to patch holes in gear, and to fix broken straps on packs, snowshoes and crampons.

### After your Trip:

After use, ski poles should be fully extended and left out to dry.



## Avalanche Probes, Snow Saws, and Shovels

### At the OTC:

Ask the rental supervisor if you have any questions about using the gear.

### In the Field:

Each piece of gear has specific mountaineering applications. Do not use this gear for anything other than its intended use.

### After your Trip:

Return the gear clean and dry. Leave all repairs for the equipment rental staff.



**Outdoor Trip Center Hours**  
Monday through Thursday 6 - 9pm  
Friday 12-3pm  
Fall and Spring Semesters only  
[www.towson.edu/adventure](http://www.towson.edu/adventure)