

# EQUIPMENT CARE



## Backpacks

### At the OTC:

Before leaving with your backpack be sure to check all buckles and straps to make sure they work properly. Any broken buckles or straps will become your responsibility after the pack is rented. Ask an equipment supervisor to fit you with a weighted backpack to ensure a good fit.

Things to consider:

- o Does the pack feel good on your back?
- o Does it pinch or bind or unusually restrict your movement?
- o Can you look up without hitting the pack with your head?
- o Can you squat down without cutting off the circulation to your legs?

### In the Field:

Rent a packcover. Backpacks are not waterproof and they have vulnerable seams and zippers. After a few hours of exposure to persistent rain, the items inside your pack could become wet and, thus, much heavier. This could lead to problems with mildew.

Quick repair tips: Wrap strips of duct tape around your water bottle in case a strap breaks or some disaster occurs, a quick fix could keep you going. Take along a few safety pins in case a zipper fails.

### After the Trip:

Before returning backpacks, ensure that they are empty and clean. Empty all belongings out of bag and remove all dirt and mud. This can be done using warm water and a rag or, if the pack is really dirty, please return and allow the trained rental staff to clean..

**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)

