

Woolpower Warmth

Over my snowmobiling years, I've tried many different under layers next to my skin. My goal is to stay warm and dry underneath the waterproof and breathable outer shell of my snowmobile suit. I thought I had it nailed with the latest synthetics, until I tested high performance under garments from Woolpower last winter. What a difference! No wonder so many cold-weather armies, police and emergency services, utility workers, and extreme adventurers wear Woolpower as their insulating layers.

As the Woolpower name implies, this under clothing is primarily made from merino wool...nature's own functional material. The Woolpower people have achieved a technically advanced blend called "Ullfrotte Original" that has many exceptional characteristics. Its knit enables the material to consist of up to an incredible 80% air among its unique terry loop stitches...and the more air I can keep still around my body, the more heat I can retain. Woolpower also wicked chill-causing moisture away from my skin very efficiently. Better yet, it keeps warming me even if it gets wet.

When I heard the word "wool", my first question was: will it be itchy? Not a chance...merino wool is incredibly soft, comfortable and non-irritating. Then I discovered that merino wool tends to neutralize absorbed body odours, an important consideration when on tour for a week or two. Just air it well every night...I rode more than 10,000 kilometres — a whole season — before the first wash...with not so much as a slight odour.

Cleaning Woolpower products is easy: machine wash and tumble dry at medium. What's more, although hopefully not a concern for snowmobilers, wool will not ignite, unlike many synthetics that can melt and cause severe burns when exposed to fire or electricity.

Woolpower provides a complete



under layering system, adaptable to various metabolisms, weather conditions and activity levels. Their garments — pullovers, long johns, socks, head coverings and mitts — come in at least two weights, 200 or 400 grams. Some are also available in 600 or 800 grams. For my testing, I mixed weights according to the conditions: 200 for mild to moderate temperature; 400 for cold; 200 + 400 for very cold; and 200 + 600, once when it was -40° Celsius with a stiff wind chill.

So why is Woolpower important to you? Because too many snowmobilers get cold, and that chill means an uncomfortable ride and could lead to possible hypothermia. Remember, your clothes don't create heat, they only help retain what your body produces. So the better job your under layers do of heat retention, the less energy your body has to expend producing more heat and the better it can regulate your core temperature for a longer period of time. Woolpower is also key to moving perspiration away from your skin to avoid that clammy feeling and the shivers.

The Swedish manufacturer of Woolpower was founded in 1969 and has been refining its ultra warm undergarments and mid-layer clothing ever since. With that kind of expertise, you can count on Woolpower to keep you warm and dry. Check it out at www.woolpower.se

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By Craig Nicholson,
The Intrepid Snowmobiler

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