



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Australian Antarctic Division



AUSTRALIAN
ANTARCTIC
PROGRAM

CLOTHING STORE **FAQS**

WHY IS MY STUFF DIFFERENT TO THEIR STUFF?

Everyone is allocated a "clothing template" relevant to the job they are doing. Templates are approved by your Manager and are assigned by the Operations section. The Clothing Store officer does not decide what you get.

HOW CAN I CHANGE OR ADD AN ITEM?

Any changes or additions to your template must be approved by your Project Lead or line manager (e.g. Cameron Frost, Amy Hobbs, Robb Clifton etc). The Clothing Store officer cannot make changes to your template without their approval.

HOW DO I WEAR THIS ITEM/WHAT IS IT FOR?

The Clothing Store officer can give you some basic information on the purpose of each item, however expertise in how and when to use each item comes from your Field Training Officer (FTO). You will be given some pre-departure briefing on clothing as well as more detailed information during survival training on station.

CAN I TAKE MY OWN GEAR?

You should absolutely take your own casual and formal clothing with you. You can also take your own outdoor/cold weather gear with you, but this should be in addition to, not instead of your issued clothing. The AAD needs to know that everyone has clothing that meets a certain standard and we can't check every piece of kit that everyone may choose to take. If you do take your own gear make sure it is utterly clean and free of any soil, seeds or organic matter of any kind. You will be briefed on cleaning of kit prior to departure and it is covered in your online Environment training.

HOW COLD WILL IT GET?

It varies a lot from place to place, summer to winter and even person to person. Summer on the Continent can vary from +10°C down to -20°C. Winter can be as warm as -5°C (usually during a blizzard!) and as low as -40°.

Macca is much milder with far less variation in temperatures. The year round range is between -9°C to +13°C.

The cold effects people in different ways so you may need to use your kit differently to others. For example some people find that their fingers may get cold quicker than other people while using the same gloves. You may need to carry multiple pairs, keeping some warm inside your clothing, and swap them from time to time.

WHAT CAN I KEEP OF MY KIT?

The clothing store officer will give you a list of everything that you have been issued. It will show which items are returnable and those which you can keep. Any returnable items not returned may be billed to you if not accounted for.





I DON'T WANT THIS. DO I HAVE TO TAKE IT?

If it is listed as a "Survival" item, then yes, you must take it. Similarly any PPE or work wear must be taken. Some remaining items are discretionary, but the AAD recommends that you do take everything on your template.

WHAT DO I NEED TO HAVE WITH ME ON THE SHIP? WHAT CAN GO AS CARGO?

During a voyage you can wear light casual clothing inside the vessel and you must wear enclosed shoes at all times outside of your cabin. You must always have access to your survival bag on board and any other cold weather clothing you may need prior to arriving at station.

Your Survival kit and PPE can be placed into the appropriately marked cages (ask your Clothing Officer) which will be loaded to the ship. Any other kit that you don't need prior to arrival at station you can consign as cargo (if you are unsure ask your Clothing officer or the friendly Warehouse staff)

WHY DON'T WE HAVE SOME OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM WITHIN A PRODUCT LINE?

The AAD's clothing store issues over 60 different items from footwear to thermals to outer clothing. To try to hold multiple options of each of those lines would require three times the storage area and cost three times as much to purchase and hold. For each product line the item that best meets the needs of most people most of the time is chosen. We constantly review the market for improved products to meet our needs and yours.

THIS DOESN'T QUITE FIT, CAN I GET IT ALTERED?

If the item is non-returnable, then yes you can have it altered and AAD will pay for it. If it is a returnable item then we may not be able to have it altered as it may not then be suitable to issue to others (e.g. reducing length of pants). An information pamphlet on alterations is available in the Clothing Store.

CAN I WEAR THIS DURING PRE-DEPARTURE TRAINING?

Yes you can wear issued clothing and footwear prior to your departure. BUT you must then ensure that it is perfectly clean before you head south. You will need to complete your online Environmental training before you go which will explain how you must clean any gear that you have worn.

WHY ARE SOME OF MY CLOTHING SIZES SO BIG?

The AAD uses the "layering" technique for our cold weather clothing. Some items may need to be issued to you in sizes larger than you would normally use to allow room for a layer/s beneath. There is also a lot of variation in sizing from different manufacturers, so limited attention should be paid to the size of your kit compared to your personal clothing.

I'M A WOMAN, WHY ARE SOME OF MY CLOTHES IN MEN'S SIZES?

Unfortunately some of the clothing lines that AAD carries have a limited size range from the manufacturer, particularly for women's sizes. In some instances the only option is to issue men's sizes where a suitable women's garment can't be found. The AAD is constantly working with suppliers to improve options for women.

CAN I BORROW CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR TO USE DURING PRE-DEPARTURE TRAINING?

No. The clothing store is not able to loan items to expeditioners. Anything you require for pre-departure training should either be taken from your issued kit or supplied by your section/project (e.g. Mechanical section, science project leader)