

Snow-Zone Pack	
Snow-zone operations require avalanche rescue gear and ability to camp overnight or even wait out a complete storm cycle in snow-covered terrain.	
Required	Recommended Options
<p>All 72-hour pack items, plus: Avalanche rescue transceiver, probe & shovel Balaclava or other head/face protection Bottle, water, wide-mouth*, liter Cap (must cover the ears) Gloves, extra (3 pairs) Goggles, snow Insulation layers (no cotton), extra Parka, weatherproof, breathable, with hood Sack, bivy Socks, winter, extra Sunscreen/lip balm, SPF 30+ Sunglasses (Not required if goggles are tinted)</p>	<p>Blanket, space (reusable type) Pad, extra, insulated (Reflectex) Extra gear to care for a stranded subject</p> <p>*(Water containers with narrow openings tend to form ice plugs in freezing temperatures.)</p>

Shopping Tips

Frame and Suspension

Look for a contoured frame and a shoulder harness-waist belt suspension system. The distance between the waist band and the shoulder straps must match your torso length. A knowledgeable shop employee can help you with this. Many packs have gender-specific suspension systems.

Higher-end harnesses have wider shoulder straps and hip belt, with a stiffening layer and good padding to better distribute pressure on shoulders and hips. Ventilation features between the pack and your back are a definite plus for summertime operations. Compression straps on the sides of a pack allow the thickness of the pack to be adjusted for the load, keeping contents close to your back and stable, helping balance and posture.

Capacity

It should be able to carry all your gear *inside*. Items fastened to the outside may get damaged, torn off or hang you up while moving through dense brush.

Organization

Choose between top, front and side openings; one big chamber or many pockets, depending on how you like to organize things.

Weatherproofing

Consider a fitted pack rain cover, a poncho that accommodates both you and your pack, or lining the pack with a garbage bag so the contents stay dry even if the pack gets wet.

Winter Packs

Some dedicated winter packs lack back ventilation in order to both insulate your back and use body heat to keep water containers inside from freezing. They may have dedicated quick-access pockets for avalanche rescue gear and external lashing to carry skis, split boards or snowshoes. Some have an insulated channel for a hydration tube inside a shoulder strap to help keep it from freezing.