

Understanding Performance and Protection in Wet Weather

EN343

The best way to understand how a garment will perform in wet or rough weather is to look at its rating under EN 343:2019. This standard is designed to provide certification for garments that protect wearers from rain. In order to understand how a garment will perform you need to be familiar with the 3 ratings provided under EN 343.



This rating measures resistance to water penetration. A score of between 1 & 4 is provided with 4 being the best performance. Progressive amounts of "pre-treatment" must be carried out before the test for the higher scores. "Pre-treatment" includes abrasive cycles, washing procedures and repeated flexing.



This part looks at resistance to water vapour. In simple terms it measures breathability (or the ability of moisture to escape from inside the garment). A rating of 1 to 4 is provided, a score of 4 provides the most breathability.



This indicates the waterproofness of a readymade garment with a pass or fail score. The garment must not let more than a specified amount of moisture onto a mannequin within a testing period of 1 hour. This test is designed to look at the performance of a garment as part of a waterproof ensemble.