



BLOG MEET THE EDITORS GO TO TRAIL'S EDGE >

# Drying Your Hiking Boots in the Backcountry

0 0

Like Tweet



Tell us something cool editor [at] trailsedge [dot] com

SEARCH

FEATURED POSTS HIKING/TREKKING

Jul 18, 2011 Misty Faucheux Comments



It often seems that every time you go out hiking, you get wet. While that's not really the case, it happens often enough that you have probably walked in wet boots more times than you care to think about. Most times, however, you are nowhere near your camping spot or a nice dry car.

So, you need to do something about your hiking boots while you are on the trail. The length of time it takes to dry your shoes really depends on the type. Typically, any synthetic shoe will take

less time to dry than your leather boots. On the flip side, synthetics often get wetter quicker.

### Bring a Spare

The first way to counteract wet hiking boots is to bring a backup pair if possible. If your backpack, however, is already crammed with gear, you might not have any room for the extra weight. This forces you to take the next step: drying your shoes with nature itself.

### Remove the Soft Sections

Usually, your hiking boots get wet when you walk through a puddle, stream or river, or if you're caught in a rain storm. Get to a dry place, and then take off your shoes. Remove every part of the boot, including the shoe laces and tongue. These pieces will take longer to dry if you leave them on the shoe.

Try to squeeze as much water as you can from these items, and hang them up. If it's sunny, place the items in the sun. If it's at night, and you can make a fire, light it up. If you have some time, place the boots in the sun or near the fire for a few hours.

### Avoid Soggy Socks

Remove your socks from your show, and hang them from a line. If you don't have a line with you, hang the socks from your backpack, tree, etc. If the weather isn't cooperating, stick your socks in a plastic bag, and put them in your backpack.



### Extra Socks are a Must

You should always bring an extra pair of socks, which you can keep in a plastic bag or a section of your backpack that doesn't get wet. If it's raining, wait to change your socks until the rain stops.

With the tongue still removed, put on dry socks, and continue hiking. As you walk, the sock will start absorbing some of moisture inside the shoe. This is especially effective if you don't have

time to stop and let the boots dry.

Keep walking with the socks on until they get too wet. Then, if you have another pair of dry socks, put

Trail's Edge on Facebook

Like

451 people like Trail's Edge.

Ian Jeff Ericson 住慶

Alison Mohammed Vincenzo Hamid

Facebook social plugin

### The Trails Edge

The Trails Edge A camping pot made of...paper? gearjunkie.com/paper-camp-coo... @TheGearJunkie 5 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite

The Trails Edge Barefoot boots! (there's a trend I can vouch for) gearjunkie.com/merrell-m-conn... 5 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite

The Trails Edge Cloudveil is one of my all time favorite brands. Now co-founder Stephen Sullivan is starting Stio. trailspace.com/articles/2012/... 7 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite

The Trails Edge Our friends at AGR @GearReview take on the Saucony Ride 5 - great for neutral runners. activegearreview.com/running/road-r... 7 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite

The Trails Edge 4 leg exercises to keep your legs injury free this summer highlineonline.ca/2012/06/28/fou... 8 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite

Join the conversation

### OUR HOMIES

Active Gear Review

Adventure Skier

Gear Junkie



them on. Keep changing out the socks until the boots feel dry.

**Put Them Back Together**

When your boots are pretty dry, put the tongue back in the boots, and tie the laces. The boots should be dry enough to get you back down the trail or to your camp. Then, let them completely overnight.

Like

Tweet 0

Leave a Comment



Add a comment...

Comment using...

Facebook social plugin

Trackbacks

[Outdoorzy](#)

[The Adventure Blog](#)

[The Gear Caster](#)

[TrailSpace](#)

[UpaDowna](#)

[Wend Magazine](#)

**Gear O' the Month**

**Giro Snow Helmets**

Resorts are opening and snow is on the ground. But the base is thin, meaning there are plenty of rocks waiting to make a meal out of your skull. Get a helmet on yo head before a rock does!

