

TEST FIRE

Per Jacobsen tested...

The Domex Sleeping bags: Mountaineer 700 and Copland

During our adventurous trip we were fortunate to be able to test out two Domex Sleeping Bags, the Mountaineer 700 and the Copland. We decided to work with Domex as they are a trusted New Zealand brand. The bags are made for New Zealand conditions, thus being perfect for our expedition.

FEATURES

Mountaineer 700:

- Suitable for winter alpine conditions, with a comfort rating of -17 to -12
- Weighs in at 1.3 kg
- Volume 6.9 litres
- Mummy shape, 80cm at shoulder, 48cm width at foot, and length 2.1 metres
- Double sliding YKK Zip to control body temperature
- Filling 90/10 White Goose downs 700grams
- Loft 700
- Outer fabric is made up by a Water resistant and breathable ripstop which protects the down fill in damp conditions, and retains the loft
- Silk touch bag inner lining
- Mesh Storage Sac
- RRP \$599 (Five Year Warranty)

Copland:

- High performance winter sleeping bag, with a comfort rating of -16 to -11
- Weighs in at 1.5 kg standard length, 1.6kg in Large
- Volume 6.9 litres and 7.9 litre in large
- Semi Rectangular shape, 75cm at shoulder, 63cm width at foot, and length 2.1 metres. In Large the specs are 85cm at shoulder, 63cm width at foot, and length 2.2 metres
- Twin Zip system for side and foot control. Fully unzips.
- Filling 90/10 White Duck downs 780grams 900grams in large
- Loft 600
- Outer fabric is made up by a Water resistant and breathable ripstop which protects the down fill in damp conditions, and retains the loft
- Silk touch bag inner lining
- Mesh Storage Sac
- RRP \$499 - \$549 (Five Year Warranty)

WHAT I LIKED

Weight, weight, weight! These beauties weighed in at 1.3 kg and 1.5 kg. Comparing to my previous sleeping bag, which weighed in at a staggering 2.05 kg, I have certainly cut down on the weight tremendously by choosing Domex.

The water resistant outer fabric came to good use after spending a night out on the mountain. The bags remained completely dry, and both bags retained their loft.

The quality YKK zipper makes working the zip in the middle of the night, when it gets too hot, an absolute breeze.

The soft silk touch inner bag lining made the frosty nights an absolute treat.

Everyone knows that when you're not out 'n about the best way to store your sleeping bag is in a storage sac, which doesn't compress your bag. Domex have included these Sacs in these two bags.

WHAT COULD BE BETTER

The buckles on the compression cram sacs that accompany the sleeping bags could do with a bit of upgrading. They are hard to work and pull out of shape when you are really trying to compress the bag.

SO WHAT'S THE VERDICT?

I believe that Domex have got it tuned down to a fine art - creating quality sleeping bags. The combination of 90/10 of either goose or duck down and synthetic seems to me like a near perfect combination. Not at one stage did Morten or I feel the cold. On the contrary we were using the zips on the bags to allow for adequate ventilation so we didn't overheat. At these prices you are really getting your money's worth. Both bags performed very well on the ice plateau, and down in the riverbeds the Mountaineer gets top marks with its venting Zip system working like a treat. The hoods at the top of the sleeping bags make a nice natural shape when tightened and doesn't obstruct your comfort inside. The best part though; you can let one slip and no-one would ever know, until you use the zip!

SO WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR IN A SLEEPING BAG?

From my experience I would say that you can't go wrong with anything made in New Zealand for New Zealand conditions.



Domex was perfect for our expedition.

Both bags performed very well on the ice plateau.



Secondly, if you are concerned about weight you need to look at the specs of the bag that you are after.

Thirdly, the shape plays a part as well. Body hugging mummy shapes, such as the Domex Mountaineer 700, will provide maximum warmth as there is less air to warm up around you and the bag. That is ideal for very cold conditions. The Copland however allows for more foot room, as it is a semi rectangular shape, with more room in the bag to move around. These types of bags are perfect for more all-round conditions especially over winter.

Fourthly, you should find the bag to suit the season. I have four bags basically - one for each season. There's nothing worse than waking up on a hot summer's night in a puddle of sweat because you brought the only bag you've got, which is only suitable for winter. Look at the season recommendations.

On www.tightlines.co.nz they have listed the seasons for each sleeping bag along with a comfort rating for each Domex bag.

Lastly, you should note the proportion fillings.

HEAT:

Down will mould to the body to create effective warmth. Synthetic has good heat retention, but not as warm per gram of weight as down.

WEIGHT AND COMPRESSION:

Down is lightweight and packs up smaller than Synthetic.

WET WEATHER ABILITY:

Down is affected when wet, and takes longer to dry, where Synthetic keeps you warm, even when damp, and is quick to dry out.

LIFESPAN:

Down lasts longer when looked after, as opposed to synthetic which has a shorter life span.



The Copland is perfect for all-round conditions and allows for more room in the bag to move around.