



DOWN handling & storage

Proper handling and storage of down materials is essential to preserving loft, cleanliness, insulation performance, and long-term durability. Down must always be stored indoors in a clean, enclosed, and dedicated room that remains free from moisture, chemicals, and foreign materials. Maintaining a controlled environment is critical—ideal conditions are approximately 20°C (68°F) with 50–60% relative humidity, as excess humidity can introduce moisture that leads to odor, microbial growth, and deterioration. All materials should be elevated on plastic pallets or clean cardboard layers to prevent floor contact and water intrusion. Even though down is naturally resistant to heat, the combination of heat and humidity accelerates degradation, making humidity control the most important factor in long-term quality protection.

To maintain purity and prevent cross-contamination, down must be kept segregated by lot number, species, fill-power classification, and treatment type such as HyperDRY, ExpeDRY, or recycled materials. Packaging must remain sealed, intact, and clearly labeled with all required information, including lot codes, quality grade, species, and QA release details. Upon receiving materials, compressed bales or bags should be opened or loosened to allow the down to breathe and recover its loft. This prevents prolonged compression, which can negatively impact loft and performance. Routine inspections are recommended to confirm packaging integrity, check for condensation or odor, and ensure that storage conditions remain stable. FIFO rotation should be used for all inventory, with QA inspection required for lots older than six months and full FP/moisture/odor testing for lots older than twelve months.

All personnel handling down should use clean gloves and protective masks, especially when managing loose material. Bags should never be dragged or punctured, and openings should occur only in controlled production or laboratory environments. Maintaining a clean, organized, and well-ventilated space helps reduce dust exposure and safeguards material integrity. Down must never be stored near chemicals, oils, raw feathers, food, or unrelated equipment. Long-term storage may require desiccants, bi-weekly checks, and periodic fill-power or moisture testing to ensure stability.

In the event of water leaks, humidity spikes, or contamination, material must be moved immediately to a dry area, quarantined, and inspected by QA. Proper documentation—including storage logs, testing records, and traceability data—ensures transparency and prevents the mixing of different lots. By following these practices, facilities can maintain the highest standards of quality, ensuring that down retains its exceptional performance characteristics throughout its life cycle.

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