

How to Store Ski Equipment in the Off-Season

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Even when the snow has just started to fall in American ski resorts, it's not too early to start thinking about how to preserve your equipment in the off-season. After a long, tough winter your ski equipment deserves some tender loving care if they're going to last until next year. Here's how professional skiers maintain their equipment for the next year.

Difficulty: Easy

Instructions

things you'll need:

- Clean, dry storage facility
- Paraffin wax or an old candle
- Plastic grocery bags

- 1 To keep your skis in tip-top shape during the off-season, you'll need a clean, dry storage space -- preferably one with low humidity. If you live close to the beach, you may want to consider renting a storage locker that is farther inland.
- 2 Get your skis professionally tuned by a reputable ski shop after your last day of skiing. When skis are tuned, they receive a new coating of wax on the entire bottom of the skis and insure that the edges are free of nicks and burrs.
- 3 Whether or not you choose to get your skis tuned after the season, run a block of paraffin or an old candle over the edges of your skis. This will prevent moisture from rusting the edges during the summer months.
- 4 Bind your skis together with Velcro ski wraps. This prevents your skis from scissoring that results in edge damage. It also makes them easier to store and transport.
- 5 Store your skis in a ski bag. You'll find good deals on ski bags during the spring months as ski shops try to sell out their current year's inventory and make way for camping gear.
- 6 Cover your ski boots during storage. The plastic bags that you get from supermarkets are perfect for storing your boots during the summer. Covering your ski boots keeps them dry, free of dirt and other debris and helps prevent spiders or other insects from taking up residence in the toes of your ski boots during the summer.

Tips & Warnings

- Buy a good-quality ski storage or carrying bag. You'll be able to use it for storing your skis as well as using it while traveling.
- A good place to store your equipment is a closet inside your house where humidity is generally controlled.
- Avoid storing your ski equipment near the water. The humidity is tough on ski equipment.
- Never loosen the tension on your ski bindings in the off-season. It could result in an injury next ski year should you forget to check their tension.