

WildSnow Pre-season Gear Checklist

Bindings

- Check all binding mounting screws. If screws are loose, back them all the way out and add wood glue or epoxy to the hole and tighten back down.
- Make sure binding is completely flat to ski, not “screw jacked.”
- Check for cracks, especially in the heel piece of binding, but examine the metallic toe plate as well (use a magnifying glass or 2x reading glasses).
- Check all machine screws for tightness. If a screw has backed out add Loctite and tighten down. If you’ve never done this and feel uncomfortable with it, seek the services of a professional binding technician.
- Click both boots into bindings and check heel spacing.

Skis

- Examine top sheet and sidewalls for delaminations. If cracks are found add epoxy and clamp with medium tightness, before water has a chance to permeate the core.
- Examine bases for dimples or core shots. Fill core shots with P-tex. If core shots are large (over a cm wide) you may want to visit a shop for a more serious repair.
- Check bases for wax. If the base looks white or dry it is time for wax.

Skins

- Check skin glue for balling and general stickiness. Adding a little glue if needed.
- Check tip and tail attachment on skins. Watch for little tears around attachments that could start growing.
- Organize skins. If you use multiple setups, have a dedicated bag for each.

Poles

- Check pole baskets to make sure they are firmly secure
- Inspect shaft for cracks.
- If you’ve got pole straps that are hard to adjust or broken, swap them out.

Boots

- Check machine screws and add Loctite. A loose buckle can become a missing buckle if these are not routinely checked.
- Add a small coat of white lithium grease to the ski/walk mechanism.
- Check for an overly worn cuff pivot rivet by manipulating cuff to see if there is excess play.
- Check tech heel fitting to make sure it’s firmly fixed to boot. Tighten screws, remove and bed in J-B Weld if needed.
- Check boot function in several different new tech bindings, especially by doing a hand check of lateral release. If boot behaves poorly in a variety of new bindings, it’s possible the tech fittings are worn.

Miscellany

- Do your hard shells need a DWR refresher?
- Check your leather gloves for cracking and dryness. Reapply mink oil or other leather proofing as needed.
- Check goggle lenses and foam.
- Check your helmet for cracks and dimples. If it is more than five years old, consider retiring it.