
army surplus pants Cold weather

Posted by M.C. Williams - 2008/09/13 05:22

I am turning 60 and find that with my blood pressure meds I'm now VERY sensitive to cold when sitting on a deer stand. If you have any really good tips on keeping warm while sitting very still please let me know. To make matters worse I'm planning on moving from TN to PA to be closer to the grand kids and it is a lot colder up there during deer season.

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Posted by Frank Logullo - 2008/09/13 05:22

I am turning 60 and find that with my blood pressure meds I'm now VERY sensitive to cold when sitting on a deer stand. If you have any really good tips on keeping warm while sitting very still please let me know. To make matters worse I'm planning on moving from TN to PA to be closer to the grand kids and it is a lot colder up there during deer season. Chemical hand warmers. Start with hands, one in each glove, as it is impossible to keep hands fully warm with a glove because of high surface to volume of the hand. Then put in boots, hat, kidneys if necessary. Most heat is lost through head, so wear good hat and muffler. Coveralls are best for eliminating draft between pants and coat but if you must use 2 piece, wear bibs. I have no problem with sub-zero weather (I'm a senior citizen too) but wind can be a killer even at 50 deg. F. Frank

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Posted by Zman - 2008/09/13 05:22

I am turning 60 and find that with my blood pressure meds I'm now VERY sensitive to cold when sitting on a deer stand. If you have any really good tips on keeping warm while sitting very still please let me know. To make matters worse I'm planning on moving from TN to PA to be closer to the grand kids and it is a lot colder up there during deer season. Mr. Williams, Not sure what type of stand/blind you're going to be using, or if you're going to be essentially still hunting on the ground. In Texas (I know, I know..., there are innumerable critics of how we hunt here), we often hunt in enclosed box-blinds. The blinds cut the wind down quite a bit (you still get wind through the windows), but it can still get pretty cool, especially early in the morning. A few years ago, I found a little heater that screws onto the top of a small propane cylinder at Academy. I was concerned that the hiss produced by the burning gas would frighten game away, but this hasn't been the case. That heater makes a huge amount of difference, as do the insulated boots and coveralls I've invested in. Come to think of it, since I got the coveralls, I've rarely needed the heater. I used to be resigned to the fact that hunting meant being cold, but not anymore. Zman

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Posted by Murray Patrick - 2008/09/13 05:22

I had some very high tech garments given to me which have since been stolen. It was like coveralls made of Polar Fleece. But, it also had a titanium frosting inside which reflected the heat back to the wearer. It was by far the best weight-to-thermal unit I ever had. (They make wet suits like this too). I can't help with a brand, but it's worth researching. Good luck. P.S. One of the finest pieces of headgear I have owned was a wool watch cap that was layered with Gore-tex offered by Cabela's.

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Posted by Eric Maiwald - 2008/09/13 05:22

I am turning 60 and find that with my blood pressure meds I'm now VERY sensitive to cold when sitting on a deer stand. If you have any really good tips on keeping warm while sitting very still please let me know. To make matters worse I'm planning on moving from TN to PA to be closer to the grand kids and it is a lot colder up there during deer season. Welcome to my neck of the woods! (I'm actually in Maryland but close to PA). As to staying warm, I have two suggestions: 1 - chemical warmer packs. They work great and they are inexpensive. They have boot warmers, small hand warmers and larger hand warmers. Keeping the extremities warm is a great place to start. 2 - Red peppers. For really cold days, I take a thermos full of beef broth seasoned with tabasco sauce. I had heard that red peppers will

warm the extremities when eaten. I don't know why it works but it does. I like spicy food so I load up on the tabasco in the broth. Hope that helps, Eric

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Posted by noah - 2008/09/13 05:22

I am turning 60 and find that with my blood pressure meds I'm now VERY sensitive to cold when sitting on a deer stand. If you have any really good tips on keeping warm while sitting very still please let me know. To make matters worse I'm planning on moving from TN to PA to be closer to the grand kids and it is a lot colder up there during deer season. There are a number of very good labels of high-tech insulated hunting clothes on the market. A few of them are carried at WalMart, and other discount stores. Go for the best that you can afford, they're worth it. With my gear (bought at WalMart), I can sit all day in freezing rain or snow, down to 0° or below. One *excellent* idea is the new heating wrap for back pain. It provides 8 hours of delicious heat to the lower back, which helps to warm the whole body. It's easy to use, comfortable, and there's something about warming the kidneys that makes the whole body happy. They're available at most drug stores. :o) Normally, loose fitting, layered clothing works best. If it fits tight, don't buy it. Start with good quality long-johns. The high-tech fabrics available today will work wonders on a deer stand. Good luck to you, from an old Adirondacker. Regards, noah To email me, remove the OT- from OT-wrecked.boats.noah.as you were. :o)

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Posted by SouthernHunter - 2008/09/13 05:22

A good toboggan, face mask, and one of those things you put over your head and goes around you neck(not sure what they are called) will keep your head nice and warm. I have read that you loose most of your body heat through head, so that's what I try to keep warm the most. Thinsulate boots and wool sock will warm you feet, and the battery heated socks will keep them quite toasty. Gloves are also very essential, you want to be able to move your fingers when that monster buck walks in. I have some thick Thinsulate gloves with a flap, that allows you use of all your finger when needed. And I occasionally use hand warmers when it gets extremely chilly. When dressing the body, try not to wear too much layers, it is better to have fewer, loser clothing that will allow some air pockets between the different layers. The air pockets will sheer out cold a lot better than 10 layers of clothing. Also a good jacket and pants are a plus. I'm sure most of this you already knew, just thought I'd throw in my two cents. Good luck. - Philip Messina.

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Posted by Jerry - 2008/09/13 05:22

Come to think of it, since I got the coveralls, I've rarely needed the heater. I used to be resigned to the fact that hunting meant being cold, but not anymore. One of the things I've discovered is buy the best gear you can afford for keeping out the cold. If you really want to stay warm then most of the WalMart stuff just won't do it. Don't get me wrong, most of my hunting clothes and gear is bought at WalMart but when the temperatures really dip down then the better quality stuff is worn. The clothing and boots that keep you dry and warm does cost more but they work and will pay for themselves many times over when you're out in those cold deer stands. Jerry

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Posted by C-Sports - 2008/09/13 05:22

sensitive to cold when sitting on a deer stand. If you have any really good tips on keeping warm while sitting very still please let me know. To make matters worse I'm planning on moving from TN to PA to be closer to the grand kids and it is a lot colder up there during deer season.

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army surplus pants Cold weather

Posted by DJ - 2008/09/13 05:22

I am turning 60 and find that with my blood pressure meds I'm now VERY sensitive to cold when sitting on a deer stand. If you have any really good tips on keeping warm while sitting very still please let me know. To make matters worse I'm planning on moving from TN to PA to be closer to the grand kids and it is a lot colder up there during deer season. MC: my advice after many years of spending a lot of time in way colder weather than you ought to (72 hours outside on a sled dog race in -30 F blowing and snow storms, just as a small example and 1,000s of hours training for same ... not to mention the hunting). First advice: wear however many/heavy clothes it takes for you to be warm. Don't compare what you're wearing to anyone else. Do what it takes to be comfortable. I wear a hat and light gloves way before anyone else does, for example and dress way warmer than lots of folks. Second: cotton clothing has no place in your hunting duffel. Repeat: NO COTTON, never, not ever, period. No cotton long johns, no cotton turtle necks, no cotton jeans, no cotton flannel shirts, no cotton socks, no cotton gloves. Third, learn to adjust your layers and ventilate on the fly to avoid overheating. Wherever I say poly propylene or pile below, you can substitute wool if you prefer. I happen to like poly pro and acrylic pile because they're more comfortable for me, lighter weight, stretchier/ easier to move around in, and work even better than wool when damp or wet. You don't have to worry nearly as much about sweating, for example. Here's what I wore last month to sit still in a tree stand at around 0 deg. F. I wasn't exactly toasty after sitting for many hours, but it was not bad at all. You can see by this stuff that I can easily vary put on or take off layers depending on the temp. It's rare to have to wear this much, but I try to plan so that if it's really cold, I can literally put everything on and be warm enough. The color of all this stuff should depend on your needs. If you need blaze orange, it's not a bad idea to make as much of this stuff blaze so that you can peel off layers w/o being dangerous. If you're into camo, same thing. I tend to go with normal colors for everything except the outer layer. I have a very cheap light weight blaze safety vest that I always carry so that if I have to strip off my blaze parka and I can put on the vest and be safe. I have a little camo vest that can serve the same purpose if I'm wearing a camo outer layer. Some people have nothing but blaze and/or camo stuff so everything they wear is on color. My clothing for Zero Expedition weight (very heavy) poly pro long underwear (tops and bottoms) (I also have light weight which I could wear underneath for added warmth or alone if it's warmer) Heavy weight acrylic pile pants and pull-over type top. (I also have a lighter version of each, similar to sweat pants/shirt, but NOT COTTON). You could substitute an insulated coverall for the heavy pile pants and top - I recommend the nylon kind rather than cotton duck. Coveralls under a parka is very, very warm, but the toilet process is a little cumbersome (can you say disrobe?). That's why I've gotten away from using my coveralls for long days outdoors away from indoor toilets. Goretex or some sort of wind/rain resistant pants to wear over the pile pants. Not needed if you're going the coverall route. I found a black pair on close out years ago and they've served my purpose. The army has nice camo ones available surplus nowadays. Pile vest (I have a thick one and a light one, depending on what I need) I like *all* this stuff - under shirt, pullover, vest, parka - to zip up high on the neck. I don't like regular, non zip turtle necks. I can zip or unzip depending on current conditions - zippers open for exertion, zip up tight for warmth when sitting. Hunting parka - synthetic (e.g. dacron / holofil or similar) insulated and wind and rain resistant, w/ hood. If you have an uninsulated shell type parka, or one with a zip out liner - that's good too and actually more versatile. My insulated parka is blaze camo because it's usually cold when I need it. I also have an uninsulated army surplus camo goretex mountain parka for everything else. Warm head and feet are key I think: thin to medium poly pro balaclava to wear under my hat. Really keeps the neck and head warmer. Can keep face warm too if you pull it up over your mouth and nose. heavy pile ear flap type hat - AKA bomber hat - or the Columbia Yazoo hat type thing. The kind with ear flaps that also cover the back of your neck and under the chin. Make sure it's wind resistant, and preferably rain resistant (e.g. goretex or similar). This should be quiet though because you move your head around a lot when hunting. When it's cold I wear the parka hood over all this as well, but really try to avoid needing the hood. I don't like stocking hats because they don't cover the neck and don't cut the wind. But they work fine. thin poly pro liner socks. Actually, thin dacron or acrylic (not cotton!) dress socks work fine for this - I've used them many times. Heavier wool or acrylic socks, depending on what's needed with your boots. Always carry extra of each socks because feet will sweat and changing socks will do a lot to warm up your feet. BOOTS: Right now, for anything colder than around +20, I have my 20 year old Army surplus white rubber vapor barrier (VB) boots - AKA bunny boots. They are excellent, ultimately warm and tough boots with a decent sole for walking. They're very heavy though. For warmer (say +20 to +40) I have regular felt liner pac boots. I've found that a well fitting pair of pac boots with a decent sole are very walkable if you're not climbing mountains (actually, I've hunted in the mountains with them as well). If it's truly warm, or if I'm walking, I have a rubber bottom/leather top uninsulated boot (LL bean type). When the VB boots wear out, I'm going to buy a modern, lighter boot equally as warm and they're going to cost \$100+, but I won't hesitate. DO NOT skimp on the boots. If you're tree stand hunting, your boots can't be too warm, imho. If you're hiking a lot, you have to be a little more thoughtful and adjust type of boot accordingly. If you expect 0 degree temps, buy a boot rated to -20 or -30 and fit them roomy enough so your feet have plenty of room with your warm socks. Cabelas has a wide variety of excellent boots that are really warm. Did I say don't skimp on boots?? I haven't worn leather boots for deer hunting in two decades. Hands: Key is to stay warm, but be able to operate gun effectively and immediately. Heavy acrylic pile or wool gloves w/ a non-slip palm of some sort - make sure the fingers are not too thick to operate the gun. Heavy weight, oversized wool or pile fingerless gloves w/ grip palm to wear *over* the other gloves (or either worn alone if it's warmer). I have some made by Kodiak that are pile with a rubber palm for good grip on the gun. This set up, with fingerless gloves over regular gloves, gives a lot of insulation over the hand and does a good job at keeping my hands warm, even at 0 F, but leaves the fingers thin enough to work the gun and the other fussing

around I do on the stand (I'm very bad in this regard!). IF my fingers get cold, I ball them up inside the gloves and can quickly put them back in the fingers if need be. I just don't like mittens and never have the need for them with this set up. I also have a muff that I can put a hot pack into and put my hands into which would be absolutely warm regardless of weather. I've kind of quit carrying it because the above combo works to 0 degrees. My friend uses thin gloves and a heated muff and swears by it. By the way, I always try to shoot a bunch of rounds in a variety of positions with the exact jacket and gloves I'll be wearing just to be comfortable if it gets cold and I really have to wear all this \$hit. It can feel very clumsy. A lot of this stuff is cheaply available through off brands or w/ close outs or army surplus. It's a lot of stuff, but except for the outer parka and the boots, I really don't have much money in it. Very little of it is dedicated for hunting - it's just my normal everyday and outdoor clothing layered up. Probably the boots and outer parka have to be the highest quality, and dedicated for hunting, but I have found very nice parkas on closeout and surplus, if you're not particular about the pattern. Give me an email anytime if you have any questions. I hope you find that you can adapt to the cold and keep hunting. I've made a lifestyle of it 8-). DJ

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Posted by noah - 2008/09/13 05:22

Come to think of it, since I got the coveralls, I've rarely needed the heater. I used to be resigned to the fact that hunting meant being cold, but not anymore. One of the things I've discovered is buy the best gear you can afford for keeping out the cold. If you really want to stay warm then most of the WalMart stuff just won't do it. Don't get me wrong, most of my hunting clothes and gear is bought at WalMart but when the temperatures really dip down then the better quality stuff is worn. The clothing and boots that keep you dry and warm does cost more but they work and will pay for themselves many times over when you're out in those cold deer stands. Jerry Hi Jerry- I have no stock in WalMart, and I'm not an employee, but they do carry some Remington (and a few other brands) cold-weather wear. It usually sells out pretty fast. I won't argue that higher quality gear isn't a bit warmer, but a guy on a budget can find serviceable gear. Good hunting, Regards, noah Off-topic posting is a bit like farting in a house of worship. Only children, the arrogant, or the ignorant, can truly enjoy it. Only the arrogant and the ignorant insist on it. To email me, remove the OT- from OT-wrecked.boats.noah.as you were. :o)

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