Stoves for the Backcountry

Backpacking Stoves

Do's and Don'ts

- Use when fire danger is high
- Use when natural fuel supply low
- Use when resource management agency requires
- Never use in an enclosed space
- Avoid fuel spills and flare-ups

Factors to Consider to Purchase

Backpacking Stoves

- Fuel type
- Fuel availability
- Weight
- Frequency of repair
- Ease of repair in field setting
- Burning efficiency

Types of Fuel

Backpacking Stoves

- White Gas
- Kerosene
- Butane
- Propane

Fuel Characteristics

White Gas Backpacking Stoves

- Most popular
- White gas available in US & Canada but not in international settings
- Fuel very flammable (explosive)
- Works well in colder conditions
- Stoves require priming

Fuel Characteristics

Kerosene Backpacking Stoves

- Kerosene has world wide availability
- More difficult in cold temps than white gas
- Spills smell longer
- Slower flame spread (safer perhaps)
- Lower cost fuel

Fuel Characteristics for Butane & Propane

Backpacking Stoves

- Fuel comes in disposable cartridges
- More expensive than Kero & White
- Butane not vaporize in cold temps
- Simplicity of use no priming
- Low pressure with low fuel