

Not down with bacteria

Allied adds antimicrobial protection to water-resistant feathers

→ Adventurers with a love for down-filled garments and gear have been thrilled with new water-resistant versions. The pillow talk just got a little sweeter: **Allied Feather & Down** (#155-306) has developed new technologies for the down treatment that also will increase performance and help prevent odor and bacteria.

In 2012, the company debuted Allied Resist, which promised 30 to 100 minutes of water resistance. A year and a half later, the updated Allied Resist Plus now shields saturation for 500 minutes.

“We are up five times the performance,” said Quality Control Manager Andy Perez.

The creators run tests to pinpoint how much treatment the down can handle without losing loftiness or sacrificing hypoallergenic standards. Treated and untreated down are placed separately into two water-filled containers. The vessels are shaken and set down, and when the fill becomes submerged underwater, the

time is recorded.

“We wanted to get to the point where we’ve perfected it, and that’s where we’re at now,” said Perez. “The best test that we’ve recorded was 1,200 minutes. Your normal down product doesn’t need to be more than 200 minutes, unless you’re going to go swimming in it.”

Allied Resist Plus also works to better safeguard against microorganisms from growing inside the feathers. For even stronger protection against bacteria, the company also has developed the Allied Antimicrobial Treatment, its first-ever antibacterial defense layer for down. The chemical technology protects against odor build-up and bacterial growth that can spur in gear that’s exposed to humidity and moisture.

“We have currently done in-house testing to see how the two work together, and from those tests we know that we can combine the two,” Perez said.

--MORGAN TILTON

