

## AT WEATHER GEAR

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Like many people, you may invest much of your time and resources weatherproofing your house and vehicles. Whether it's waterproofing your roof, insulating your doors, tinting your windows, or purchasing snow tires for your car, you want to protect what's yours against the harsher elements of Mother Nature. The same holds true for your body. You want to protect yourself against the rain, snow, or sun. This guide provides you with a sampling of assistive technology (AT) weather gear available on the market.

### [Caught in the Rain](#)

Ominous dark clouds roll in and there is a distant rumble of thunder as the first cool drops of rain start to pepper your skin. Then, in an instant the skies open up and unleash a torrent of rain, soaking you, everyone, and everything in its path. Unfortunately, this predicament is not an unfamiliar one—we've all been there or at least know of someone who has. But, you don't have to let sudden downpours get in your way. Below are a few products that may help you deal with the rain.

The [Umbrella Cane Combo](#) is a straight cane and umbrella in one. If you have walking or balance disabilities, this umbrella may be a good option for you. It has a 34-inch retractable cane that you can draw from its umbrella sheath whenever it rains. The two components can be separated, allowing you to use the cane as a walking aid while simultaneously shielding yourself from the rain, snow, or sun with its 48-inch-wide umbrella.

If you use a wheelchair, the [Adult Wheelchair Poncho](#) may help you combat the rain. Its exterior is made of Supplex fabric, and the interior is fully lined with soft polar fleece. It has a snap front placket and reinforced seams, is machine washable, and fits both you and the chair.

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In addition to shielding you from the rain, the [Bright Night Water Cluster Design Lighted Umbrella](#) is a lighted umbrella that illuminates your path, helping you avoid obstacles and improve visibility if you have mobility disabilities or low vision. When you push the on/off button on the handle, the umbrella's six-volt krypton bulb will turn on, placing you within a six-foot circle of light. This 36-inch-long lighted umbrella features a water cluster design, fiberglass shaft, and polycarbonate ribs, as well as a 43-inch-wide canopy made of pongee Nylon. This umbrella can also hold up against strong winds—even those up to 40 miles per hour—without damage, and its battery-operated bulb can provide you with up to three hours of constant illumination.



*Bright Night Water Cluster Design Lighted Umbrella*

## Let It Snow

There is something so calming about gazing out your window and watching snowflakes fall. They drift down and pile up silently and slowly, muffling sound under a thick white blanket and filling the world with stillness and peace. But that all shatters the moment you have to step outside. The glistening snow-covered grounds that had looked so beautifully serene just moments before now look menacing and treacherous. And the breathtaking view of tree branches laden with snow is quickly forgotten as soon as you feel the first blast of icy wind that chills you to the bone and takes your breath away. Below are examples of AT weather gear that can help protect you from the snow and cold so you can enjoy the snowy weather both from inside and outside your window.

If you use a wheelchair, the [IZ Collection's Easy Zip Back Parka](#) may keep you warm and dry through the coldest climates. The Easy Zip Back Parka is a coat specifically designed for individuals who use wheelchairs. Constructed from a water-repellent fabric, this gender-neutral parka is filled with Thinsulate and lined with Kasha—a flannel-backed satin—to provide an extra layer of warmth. It is shorter in the back and sides to prevent bunching of excess material, and the front is long enough to cover your entire lap. Moreover, the parka itself can be separated completely into two halves through a zipper opening in the back, so that you can put it on one side at a time and then refasten to connect the two sides. It also features a total of four front pockets, a tabbed front zipper and Velcro closure, a removable hood, and elastic wrist cuffs to keep the cold out.

You may want to wear the ergonomically designed [Battery-Heated Glove Liners](#) by themselves or under winter gloves to keep your hands warm without sacrificing any manual dexterity if you have a condition that causes a temperature-sensitivity in your hands. The battery-powered heating system encased in the gloves' liners uses flexible heating panels and hair-thin micro-alloy fibers to spread heat throughout the hand for quick, consistent warming. The heating system provides two to four hours of continuous

heat depending on which heating setting you select with the one-touch temperature controller (i.e., low, medium, or high).

The removable [Winter Ice Treads](#) footgear, which can be stretched over any shoe or boot, is designed to assist you if you with mobility, walking, or balance disabilities. These no-slip studded ice treads have four stainless steel cleats that can firmly grip icy surfaces and packed snow to help you prevent slips and falls.



## [Sunny Days](#)

For many people, a bright sunny day is an open invitation for T-shirts and shorts, going to the beach, and engaging in other fun outdoor activities. However, if you have conditions that can be irritated by the sun and heat, sunny days can be demanding. Fortunately, there are numerous types of AT weather gear that can help shield you and minimize your exposure to the sun and heat.

The [Evaporative Cooling Hat](#) is a body-cooling system that may be a good option if you have a neurological disability. This baseball-style hat has a patented Hydroweave system that uses the sun's energy to cause evaporation that draws heat away from your head. The hat is charged by running it under cool water. After you squeeze out excess water from the hat, it keeps your head up to 30 degrees cooler than the outside air temperature. Its Hydroweave system combines hydrophilic (water-attracting) and hydrophobic (water-rejecting) fibers in a three-layer fabric that conducts body heat upwards while retaining the cool water and releasing it slowly through evaporation. The middle layer, an inner lining that cannot be permeated by water, holds onto water to keep the head cool and dry. The hat is made of a cotton and polyfiber blend with an adjustable hook-and-loop back.

[NoIR Sunglasses](#) filter out ultraviolet, visible, and infrared light to maximize your functional vision by reducing glare and enhancing contrast. They can provide you with relief from light sensitivity and discomfort—symptoms that typically accompany most vision-impairing eye conditions such as night blindness or excess glare due to macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, albinism, and cataracts. NoIR Sunglasses are available in multiple styles with top and side-shield protection and are designed to fit over your prescription glasses.

[Protexgloves](#) may offer you relief if you have sun sensitivity and chronic skin and hand conditions, such as arthritis, contact dermatitis, eczema, peripheral neuropathy, Raynaud’s syndrome, scleroderma, vitiligo, and Xeroderma Pigmentosum (XP). Made of Supplex nylon and Lycra elastane, Protexgloves have more than 50 SPF UVA and UVB sun protection fabric, blocking 98 percent of UV radiation. With these form-fitting, lightweight gloves, you can perform most small tasks all while safeguarding your hands from harmful sun exposure. Protexgloves can also protect your hands from mild changes in temperature, allergens that cause skin allergy, or other irritant agents, as well as provide gentle support and soothing comfort for aching hands.



### [For More Information](#)

[Contact us](#) at AbleData for more information on the AT weather gear mentioned in this guide and others that may help you.



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