

STOVES

Types of stoves available for backpacking

1. Pressurized gas stoves (Snow Peak, Jet Boil)
 - a. Canister stoves
 - b. Mixed fuel stoves
2. Liquid fuel stoves (MSR, Whisperlite, Optimus Svea)
 - a. Single fuel, usually white gas, but sometimes kerosene or diesel
 - b. Stoves that can handle various fuel types.
3. Less commonly used stoves
 - a. Solid fuel stoves (Esbit tablets)
 - b. Alcohol stoves (Caldera cone)
 - c. Stoves burning wood, charcoal or other natural combustibles (Solo Stove, Sierra Zzip)

Questions to ask yourself before buying a stove

1. How many people will I be cooking for?
2. How much time and trouble am I willing to take with cooking? Can I do field repairs on my stove? How much time will I have available for cooking?
3. Do I plan to use the stove in extreme conditions? If so, what kind of conditions? In foreign countries?
4. Is cost of stove and/or fuel a factor? How about weight?

Examples of each type of stove

Pressurized canister stoves: These are easy to operate and maintain. In fact, apart from keeping them clean, there is practically no maintenance. They are efficient in most environments due to improved fuel blends (isobutan/propane).

Liquid fuel stoves: Fuel is readily available at home and abroad, especially for multi-fuel stoves. There is no need to carry more than necessary, as with pressurized gas, and no empty canisters to dispose of. The fuel burns hot and efficient, with enough BTU for cooking a large pot of food—think large group. It also functions very well in extremely cold weather. On the other hand, these stoves are unable to maintain a slow simmer, are often high maintenance and care must be taken against fuel leakage.

Other stoves:

Homemade type alcohol stove—Caldera Cone. Best for solo travelers on short trips. Denatured alcohol does not burn very hot but is cheap and easy to obtain.

Homemade Esbit stove—uses Esbit tablets. Most lightweight option but not very efficient and stinks.

Wood burner stove—Sierra ZZip, Solo Stove. No need to carry fuel but you must have plenty of time for cooking and gathering fuel. It is not an option when forest regulations forbid open fires.

Stove Summery

Stove Type	Best Uses	Comments
Gas Burner	Cold winter camping, 4+ group size	More expensive. Fussy and high maintenance
Big Canister	3 season water boiling and cooking 2-3 people	More expensive. Safer with fuel at a distance
Mini Canister	3 season solo boiling and cooking	Cheap. Easy to tip over with big pots.
Integrated Canister system	3 season solo mostly water boiling	Easy to store. Most have electronic igniters
Alcohol or Solid fuel	3 season solo, less than 10 meals	Cheap. Good DIY project, fuel is accessible and inexpensive
Wood Burner	mild weather, 1-2 people fuel availability, no fire restrictions	Free fuel; doubles as mini-campfire

Please see <https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/backpacking-stove.html> for more information
<https://adventuresinstoving.blogspot.com/2011/11/how-cold-can-i-run-my-gas-stove.html>