# Product Review

**Product:** Thermal Gloves

**Date:** 2023-12-24

**Customer Review**

My primary intended use for these Thermal Gloves was technical ice climbing and winter mountaineering ascents in Colorado's often frigid Front Range, activities demanding a delicate balance between sufficient warmth, crucial dexterity for tool handling and rope work, and reasonable durability. In very cold, dry conditions, typically ranging from 0°F down to -15°F (-18°C to -26°C), they performed admirably. They provided excellent warmth without feeling overly cumbersome, retaining enough tactile sensitivity to get a decent feel for ice tool shafts and place protection with confidence. The articulated, pre-curved finger design aids significantly in maintaining a natural, less fatiguing grip on tools during long pitches.

However, the limitations became apparent quickly. Dexterity for finer motor tasks, such as efficiently operating smaller carabiner gates (especially screwgates), manipulating fiddly backpack buckles, or tying critical knots and hitches with frozen ropes, remained challenging due to the inherent insulation bulk. More significantly, their performance plummeted dramatically once they became wet during a day involving mixed climbing with sections of melting ice. The insulation absorbed water readily and took an exceptionally long time to dry out, rendering the gloves heavy, cold, and practically useless from an insulation standpoint. This slow drying and loss of warmth when wet represents a potential safety issue on multi-pitch routes or long days out.

Furthermore, while the leather palm offered good initial grip on ice tools, it showed wear surprisingly quickly when subjected to the abrasion of gripping coarse granite during mixed sections or rappelling. For purely cold and dry ice climbing or mountaineering where moisture exposure is minimal, these gloves offer a good blend of warmth and function. However, their significant degradation when wet makes them a poor choice for mixed climbing, warmer conditions where ice might be melting, or any activity where prolonged contact with moisture is likely.