

Types of Lightweight Camping Stove and Fuels: The Short Version

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Advice on which lightweight camping stove to buy for the conditions you'll be camping in.

[Read a more in-depth article about lightweight camping stoves and fuels](#)

Regardless of the stove you buy, learn how to use it (initially in a wide open space) cook several meals on it, try different fuels (if that's an option) and before you venture out learn how to strip it, clean it, repair it, and re-assemble it. Teach your adventure buddies to do the same.

Remote and Cold Expeditions Stoves

If you're going on long expeditions, in extremely cold and/or remote places (-10°C or below) buy a pressurised liquid petroleum stove that will use petrol, unleaded and paraffin as well as gas. [See the MSR Whisperlite Universal](#)

Stoves for use in UK Conditions

If you're going to use a stove in less extreme cold weather (-10°C to 10°C) for periods (up to 7 days), buy a gas stove with liquid-feed capability (with a pre-heater) and buy an adapter or two from eBay. [See the MSR Windpro](#)

If you're unlikely to use a stove in cold conditions (above 10°C) then consider a tiny superlight, canister-top stove. [See the MSR PocketRocket 2](#)

I recommend MSR stoves simply because those that I've used have been virtually faultless; there are many other manufactures whose stoves are probably as good, possibly better: I only have experience of MSR or poorer stoves so I couldn't say otherwise with any integrity.

If you don't have the budget for an MSR stove or want to explore another manufacturer [talk to Alpkit](#) I hear very good things about their stoves.

If you want your kids to cook in camp; buy a [Trangia](#) with a gas conversion.

If you only ever cook for yourself and use one pot, try a [Jetboil](#) or similar.

I regularly hear of people who buy cheap stoves from China, etc; some have good experiences, some don't. I'm not a gambler.

Top Tips

Learn how to use your stove, safely and effectively, before venturing out into the field. Teach your adventure buddy; make sure they can also use it safely and effectively.

Borrow before you buy, if you can. Try a range of stoves in the conditions you'll be heading into.

Your stove is one of the most important bits of equipment in your pack if you go into remote country. Don't skimp; invest.

The author: Simon McElroy has been using stoves in the field for around 45 years and still has both eyebrows. "I've only been on this planet for 55 years and so my experience is relatively tiny; collectively, you have much more knowledge than me; you'll develop your own opinions and, when you have experiences lasting 45 years, let's argue, but in the meantime let's share."