

# Vass-Tex

## 550 Commercial-Grade Waterproofs

### CONTACT

Products available via  
Vass Stockists

[www.vass-tex.com](http://www.vass-tex.com)

**John Lewis** tried out some pukka clobber.

I've been lucky enough to test the new heavy-duty Vass-Tex 550 waterproof clothing, giving it a thorough trial on numerous outings.

Although this clothing is aimed mainly at the boat side of angling, I've discovered that it has a lot to recommend it on the shore as well.

One of the key features of the suit is that the waist area is more generous than most. This helps to accommodate extra clothing underneath the top layer. This is a necessity for most boat anglers, and it enabled me to keep warm and without restricting my movements during some early season boat trips. It's always a lot chillier out on the water!

Another key feature is that the legs are wider, which allows plenty of room to get wellies on.

I also noticed that the trouser legs were a bit shorter than most. It doesn't mean that they're intended for Umpa Lumpas; it's actually a bit of design genius. Keeping the legs short avoids capillary action drawing water up the lining of the legs, as can happen if your trouser bottoms are touching the ground. This can happen surprisingly frequently with other suits, and there's nothing worse than feeling that creeping damp on a cold day. Trust me, I've been there and done that!

The zipped jacket also has many features. As well as being wide enough to accommodate extra clothing if needed, it also has wider-than-usual cuffs to allow for gloves. How many times is this overlooked?

The zipped jacket is quick

and easy to take off or leave on, and there's a storm flap with popper buttons to make sure that water doesn't get in through the zip – so long as you remember to do the poppers up. A generously sized hood with a drawstring also helps keep you dry.

This suit is heavier than the other items of clothing in the Vass range, as this is of commercial-trawler grade! It's a very tough item of clothing, but you quickly get used to the extra weight, which, to be honest, isn't too serious.

During the tests I spent a considerable amount of time kneeling down on the deck of boats. This is often the first place where clothing seems to fail, but the material was able to cope with a rough deck and the constant movement from a rocking boat.

I've also worn the clothing on some shore trips, and it's stood up well to the rigours of some of the rough ground that I visit.

The suit came in a choice of two colours: bright orange and blue. I opted for the blue as I fancied using it on the shore and didn't want to stand out too much. Some tackle shops may not have these in stock, but they should be able to order them for you, or you can visit the Vass website and place an order.

The prices are fantastic for items of clothing that will last you for a very long time, with items from other brands often failing after just a few trips. Personally I would rather pay once for a top-quality, hard-wearing, super-strong



garment than pay for replacement suits time and time again.

Cleaning the clothing couldn't be easier; a wash down with soapy water or, if you prefer, a rinse with a hose pipe or even jet spray will remove the stains associated with angling. Of course, the clothing is also machine washable; that's if your wife even lets you in the house with it after a good day's fishing!

I feel that all the key features are well thought out and will make this clothing a sure hit among boat anglers. Credit should be given to the Vass design team, because time has really been taken in order to perfect this suit so that it can be suitable for any type of angler. **Sea**