

# What is a Ghillie Suit?

The simplest way put, a Ghillie Suit is a mesh or cloth body covering with native leaves, plants and grasses attached to it that makes its wearer blend into his environment.

Snipers and hunters certainly understand the importance of being completely camouflaged. More importantly, in some situations, the effectiveness of their uniform's ability to blend into their surroundings may save their life. Ghillie Suits were invented to keep snipers, hunters and military personnel hidden and out of danger. Ghillie Suits have also been called Yowie Suits. But whether you call it a Ghillie, or a Yowie, these suits provide superior concealment in some of nature's most hazardous environments.

The Ghillie suit got its name from Scottish folklore. A tree spirit known as 'Ghillie Dhu' is revered for its ability to conceal itself by disguising itself in different types of vegetation, such as twigs, leaves and branches.

Considered by some hunters and snipers to be sort of invisibility cloak, the Ghillie suit may include a full body suit, Poncho Style Ghillie Suits, Ghillie Pants, Upper Body Ghillie Suits, Back Packs, Face Veils, Head Covers, and more. The construction and materials used in the suit are very important to ensure that you get as much concealment as possible. Often times hunters and snipers will either make their own suit or use a pre-made suit and add natural material from the environment where the suit will be worn. Although making your own Ghillie Suit is very time consuming and labor intensive, it is one way to ensure that all of your materials are from your native surroundings. Along with the manufacturing process, Ghillie Suits must be "seasoned" in mud, manure, or a combination of both to ensure that your human scent will be completely camouflaged when out in the fields. Many professional hunters find that purchasing a Ghillie Suit is more cost effective and time saving in the long run. The most common materials used to construct Ghillie Suits are burlap and jute, which are sewn to the garment in strips using invisible thread. Other materials are then added to give the suit a more realistic and 3D effect.

It is important to realize that many Ghillie Suits are very heavy and can be extremely hot. For this reason, it isn't recommended to be worn by hunters in all climates. It is best suited for use in cooler climates or forested areas. Due to the weight of Ghillie Suits, they may take some practice and skill to best maneuver them. In fact, you can choose different suits based upon the type of mobility that is needed. Since Ghillie Suits are made from jute, which is highly flammable, it is a good idea to choose a suit that is flame retardant and always practice fire safety rules when wearing your suit. This includes never smoking while wearing a Ghillie Suit. Recently though, lightweight Ghillie Suits have been introduced to consumers with net weights of around five pounds, these suits are made of mesh and most generally artificial foliage. While these suits are still effective, it is best to try a couple different types of suits to see which one suits your particular concealment needs.

## When do you need a Ghillie Suit?

A Ghillie Suit is a suit that is worn to provide the best level of camouflage possible. Hunters, military personnel, snipers, and players of the sport paintball often wear them. Ghillie Suits differ from regular camouflage uniforms in the aspect that they are covered with burlap or jute webbing and then natural materials are affixed to the suit. The materials give the suit a three dimensional appearance and provide excellent invisibility. In fact, the wearer of a Ghillie Suit may find that they can stand next to a tree, squat near a bush, or lie down horizontally on the ground and go virtually undetected. Many Ghillie Suits are also seasoned or weathered in mud or manure to give them a more authentic look as well as cover human scent. Ghillie Suits provide so much coverage that many military personnel and snipers lives depend upon them.

Ghillie Suits are perfect for hunters who need to blend into their surrounding environment in order to catch their prey. They come in a variety of colors, so blending in with your environment is easy. The mud and manure mix will ensure that you will go undetected by animals when in the midst of the hunt. It is important to realize however that some state laws enforce that hunters wear certain colors, such as bright orange. Under these circumstances, the Ghillie Suit would not be appropriate. However, as long as your state allows, you will find that wearing a Ghillie Suit can greatly increase your hunting results.

Military personnel as well as snipers often rely greatly on their ability to go undetected. Sneaking into enemy territory should only be attempted under a cloak of invisibility and that is exactly what a Ghillie Suit is. Many well-trained soldiers create their own Ghillie Suits, to ensure that they have the best match for the environmental conditions where they will be fighting. Using items from the surrounding environment is the best way to create a tailored Ghillie Suit that blends in completely. Soldiers also realize the need for carrying equipment, food, and water and they often have separate pockets inside of the Ghillie Suit to hold these necessities. Snipers have reported that while wearing their Ghillie Suits, they have come within several feet of their targets virtually undetected.

Hunting, military personnel, and snipers lives may depend upon the Ghillie Suit, but that isn't the case for those playing the game of paintball. However, avid and serious fans of the sport swear by their Ghillie Suits. To a paintball enthusiast, the Ghillie Suit may mean the difference between winning and losing. It is important to realize that Ghillie Suits come in various weights and what may be a suitable suit for a hunter may be different for a paintball enthusiast. If you need great mobility, or will be standing for long periods of time, consider choosing a Ghillie Suit that is lightweight and easy to maneuver. Many suits are designed specifically with the activity the wearer will be using it for in mind, so choose a suit that is geared towards your needs and you will see the greatest results from your

suit. By choosing a Ghillie Suit that best meets your needs and objectives, you can ensure that you will have the most success whether you are hunting, engaged in military operations, or playing paintball.

## **How to Make a Ghillie Suit.**

Ghillie Suits are used by military personnel, hunters, and those who play paintball for providing complete coverage. They are constructed from burlap or jute and utilize natural materials such as twigs, branches, and leaves to ensure that the wearer blends in with their environment and goes virtually unnoticed. Some military experts insist on making their own Ghillie Suits as this enables them to tailor their suit for their own mission needs as well as ensuring that the suit is best adapted to the environment.

Today, many people are choosing to make their own Ghillie Suits as well. Some people take a BDU uniform and embellish it with strips of jute and other natural materials until they have formed their own Ghillie Suit. Others prefer to purchase a Ghillie Suit kit. This enables them to create their own suit according to a pattern. It is very important to realize that creating your own Ghillie Suit can be very time consuming. It may take up to 100 hours to make your own Ghillie Suit. Also, since jute is a highly flammable substance, it is imperative to realize that your Ghillie Suit is flammable. Many kits will often include a fire resistant treatment that you must prepare to ensure that your suit is adequately protected from fire. Some people choose to purchase a Ghillie Suit that is made from non-flammable materials if they greatly fear that fire may be a concern. For those who are concerned about fire safety, it is recommended to purchase a non-flammable Ghillie Suit rather than making your own.

Many people decide that the best method is to purchase a Ghillie Suit and then embellish it with natural materials from the environment they will be in. This is the most time saving and practical means of ensuring that you have a professionally designed suit and one that is tailored to your individual needs as well.

If you are going to use a kit to create your own Ghillie Suit, you do have some advantages. For instance, by using a kit you can design the color scheme to ensure that you have the best camouflage possible for your environment. In fact, you may find that by choosing several colors you can create a suit that you wouldn't be able to find elsewhere. Creating a head to toe suit is simple if you use a poncho kit, as compared to making a suit from a jacket and pants. Another advantage to making your own suit is that you can choose how much depth you would like to add to your suit, as this can affect the weight of your suit as well.

If you are a paintball enthusiast, creating your own paintball Ghillie Suit from a kit may be just up your alley. If you prefer a synthetic material, you will find that your suit can be waterproof as well as fire retardant. Always choose your color scheme carefully to ensure that you have the best coverage possible, and select a kit that states that the final product will be lightweight. Finally, if you feel that making your own suit is too much work, remember you can always purchase one that is already made.

## **How Ghillie Suits Help Your Hunt**

Ghillie suits are used for camouflage purposes. They can be used in a variety of circumstances, from military operations, to local law enforcement, to hunting activities and even paintball games. All of these activities do share similar characteristics. There is a hunting party as well as a target. In military and law enforcement, then camouflage is very important, not only to capturing the target but also to protecting one's own body. In other activities such as paintball sports or hunting, there is less emphasis on protecting one's self and more emphasis put on deceiving the target.

However, even in the hunting sport there is a need to approach your target cautiously. If you are hunting wild animals, for instance, if you are not cautious then you may be exposing yourself to danger. Whether you are on this hunt for your life or just for fun, ghillie suits can improve your odds of "winning." Ghillie suits are camouflage outfits made from net or cloth

and then topped with loose strips of twine material that resembles scattered leaves and twigs. A target, whether human or animal, will conclude on first glance that a ghillie suit is merely a collection of natural sheddings or heavy foliage.

Snipers and hunters wear ghillie suits so that they can better blend in a forest environment. Ghillie suits can help the hunter to hide not just a portion of his body, but his entire frame. This will deceive his targets into believing that the environment is calm and peaceful right before the attack.

If you are interested in ordering ghillie suits visit [SniperGhillies.com](http://SniperGhillies.com). This website offers a variety of ghillie suits, including lightweight ghillie suits, full suits, ghillie pants or jackets, blankets, as well as other hunting equipment. These camouflage uniforms can greatly improve your next hunt.

## **How the Ghillie Suit Helps You**

Make no mistake about: ghillie suits are made for hunting. If you buy a ghillie suit then you're not likely to use it as casual wear, as formal church attire or even for a costume party. (Unless you're going as the DC character Swamp Thing) A ghillie suit is a specially made suit that is designed to camouflage its wearer into a natural forest background. A ghillie suit is designed from net or cloth material and then covered in loose strips of cloth that resemble leaves. (Real or faux wooden twigs may also be thrown into the design)

The reason a hunter will wear a ghillie suit is to deceive his target into a peaceful state. If not for the ghillie suit, a target would see or sense a hunter coming from a distance away. When a target is placed on the defensive (whether human or animal) the eyes quickly note any unusual objects or sudden movements. However, the target has no reason for alarm when all it sees are familiar forest landmarks like trees, branches and foliage.

You can see why ghillie suits are very effective for the hunter, no matter what hobby or profession is involved. Hunting enthusiasts rely on ghillie suits so that they can hunt fast game more effectively. Paintball players enjoy using ghillie suits to increase the excitement of play. Snipers, both in law enforcement and in the military, may rely on ghillie suits for legitimate combat—not only for improved targeting but also for their own protection.

If you would like to buy ghillie suits online then consider [goldenpython.com](http://goldenpython.com). This company offers a wide selection of ghillie pants, ghillie full suits, jackets, blankets and backpacks. If you want to improve your chances—of survival or of major gaming success—then order a ghillie suit online.

## **Hunting Regulations in America**

Ghillie suits, rifles and ammo—all instruments that are associated with hunting in America . Hunting has been a part of human history for thousands of years. In fact, North American hunting predates the United States by several millenniums. Hunting today has changed slightly. While Native American cultures still retain most of their hunting rights and are exempt from various laws, everyday U.S. citizens are highly regulated in their hunting activity. This is primarily due to environmental law that protects endangered animal species.

Regulations on hunting differ from state to state. States will have very specific demands involving protected species, though they will rarely limit the hunting of unprotected species. Varmints refer to unprotected non-game animals that are seen by most as pests. This means that the animals usually pose a threat to farmers' crops, other livestock, landscaping, infrastructure or even domesticated pets. Because hunting varmints is seen as a means of controlling unwanted predatory animals, there may be little to no regulation on these hunting practices. Varmints include various types of rodents, coyotes, birds, foxes, cats and hogs.

In the category of game animals there are a few categories to consider: big game refers to deer, reindeer, moose, elk, bear and bighorn sheep. Small game refers to cottontail rabbits and squirrels. Furbearers include two species of fox, red fox and mink. Predators refer to cougars, including mountain lions and panthers as well as coyotes. Lastly, there are categories of upland bird, like grouses and pheasants, as well as waterfowl, which includes duck and geese.

The hunting of game animals does require a hunting license. In order to qualify for a license you will usually be asked to complete a hunting safety course. In addition, hunters will have to purchase tags for each animal they plan on hunting. Tags are often limited, especially in areas where there are more hunters than there are quotas for animal species. As evidenced, hunting is a game to be taken seriously.

## Learning More on the Construction of Ghillie Suits

The ghillie suit is a suit used for camouflage purposes by hunters, military personnel and paintball enthusiasts. There are usually two types of suit construction methods: professional manufacturing and amateur suit creation. It's usually military personnel who construct their own suits because they have a specific purpose. They must quickly adapt to their immediate surroundings. For this reason, most amateur suits are constructed in just a short while. By contrast, professional suits (or even high quality amateur suits) take many hours to properly construct.

Ghillie suits are made from various materials. Some military personnel have used rough burlap flaps or jute twine for covering and then attached this material to a poncho, full suit or jacket. For example, the army has been known to use flight suits and BDUs for base material. However, commercial manufacturers usually made ghillie suits out of cloth or net and then the accompanying leaves and twigs out of twine. There are also synthetic

ghillie suits, which are considered by many to be lighter, easier to function inside and ideal for washing.

Commercial manufacturing uses durable fabric (such as burlap) to construct these pieces. In order to attach the net to the fabric, invisible fishing line material is sewn on while glue is also applied for extra length. Jute can be applied by tying groups of strands to the netting. This webbing is then seasoned for realism and to give it a more earthy smell so that wildlife or even other human beings wouldn't notice an unusual "factory" smell. How is then done? The old fashioned way: by dirtying the suit up. The suit may be driven behind a vehicle, soaked it in mud and or even applied to manure. The point is to make it smell like any other natural forest scene.

## **Legal Aspects of a Ghillie Suit**

A ghillie suit is a camouflaged outfit worn to disguise hunters, as well as soldiers, snipers and even paintball players. It is a specially designed suit that allows a shooter to blend in with his environment. This allows the hunter to take his prey by surprise. The three dimensional appearance of this type of suit (complete with fake or authentic twigs and leaves) lets the shooter become "invisible" to his prey. The wearer of a ghillie suit usually stands next to a tree or by a bush, which adds to the invisibility factor.

You may wonder, if the ghillie suit is such an effective tool in targeting, is it illegal? While most communities don't prohibit the suit in public or for group gaming, when it comes to hunting then there may be a problem. Remember that these suits are made so realistically that most people—and animals—will not sense your presence. It will be easy to fool animal life, particularly if you can erase the human scent by dirtying your suit up with manure or mud.

Because of this "unfair advantage" some states, or hunting ranges, may prohibit the use of ghillie suits in game hunting. Some states will demand that hunters wear bright colors



when they are hunting so that the animal will have a fighting chance. Be sure to check your local region for any ghillie suit laws that may affect your hunting expedition.

Ghillie suits really do make the hunting process easier. There are a variety of types of suits for very different circumstances, including forest ghillie suits, desert suits and snow ghillie suits. When you suit up, no human or animal will be able to see you coming. No wonder that ghillie suits are used by all of the top shooters in the world—military experts and experienced hunters alike

## **Problems with Cleaning Your Ghillie Suit?**

Ghillie suits were never meant to be washed, at least not according to historical origin. Some ghillie suits today are quickly assembled by soldiers and not intended to be used more than a few days at a time. However, some hunters and paintball players do take special pride in their ghillie suits and may be concerned at how the suit will fare outside the jungle—namely, in the washing machine.

Most manufactured ghillie suits are made out of burlap cloth and jute twine. Usually washing is discouraged because the additions to the cloth, the fake twigs and leaves, are too sensitive for the rigorous washing and drying cycle. (Additionally washing may remove flame retardant) However, some ghillie suit owners have stated that traditionally washing one piece at a time on a gentle cycle and on medium dry-heat, came out fairly well. Others have stated that after washing, the product becomes fluffier and may leave fur behind.

While different results have been reported in quality, most everyone agrees the major problem is that newly dried ghillie suits smell too clean. If you are going hunting this will

be a major problem, since game animals depend on smell to detect the threat of intruders. Even if your ghillie comes out fine after the wash, it is usually recommended that you roll around in the dirt to bring back that "earthy" quality to the suit.

Of course, this is in reference to the sport of hunting. If you are using ghillie suits for military, law enforcement or even war simulation games (like paintball) then scent is not a major issue. Remember that you can also buy new ghillie suits for a low price, including jackets, blankets, whole suits or pants. If you are looking for an online retailer visit the Sniper Ghillies store at [Goldenpython.com](http://Goldenpython.com)