

BEHIND THE SCENES

GET TO KNOW GALVIN GREEN

Leaders in all things golf apparel, read on to find out more...

galvingreen.com

If there's a new brand that's demonstrated its expertise in every area of performance golfwear, it has to be Galvin Green.

The Swedish apparel company may be viewed as a relative newcomer to golf but there is no doubt it has arrived with a wealth of knowledge and big ambitions.

Already Scandinavia's leader in the development and design of golf clothing, we are starting to feel the benefits here in

the UK with suppliers springing up all over the country and sales ever increasing.

Galvin Green's aim is to improve its collections through the introduction of new materials, technical features and design concepts, and we sent assistant editor Michael McEwan over to the WL Gore plant in the USA to witness how these technologies are applied to the brand's incredible waterproof apparel.



← Galvin Green ASTOR

- **Details:** The new improved stretch fabric inserts offer 25% more movement across the shoulders for an uninhibited swing. The fabric also consists of a micro-porous membrane that lets air in but keeps rain out.
- **RRP:** £289
- galvingreen.com

The Astor is available in five colours: black, brilliant blue/black (pictured), white/black, blackberry/black, and chilli red/black.

The Gore-Tex Performance Shell is styled to avoid unnecessary fabric at the front that could impede the swing.



WL Gore's company headquarters in Barksdale, Delaware

Gore blimey

Michael McEwan goes behind the scenes of the company whose technology helps keep golfers dry

Think the recipe for Barr's In-Bru is the world's most closely-guarded secret? Guess again. That honour goes to WL Gore, manufacturers of the fabric which makes Galvin Green one of the industry leaders in golf rainwear.

I recently got to visit the company's headquarters and manufacturing plants in the United States of America, where I discovered two things.

One, no matter how hard you try, you cannot get even one droplet of water to permeate the fabric.

Two, no matter how nicely you ask, you cannot persuade any of the WL Gore team to divulge specific details of how they make sure Galvin Green wearers stay bone dry.

They *will* tell you a couple of things. That the key ingredient is ePTFE - or 'Expanded Polytetrafluoroethylene' - and that it is, effectively, 'glued' to the fabric using a lamination procedure.

However, beyond that, I can't tell you much more, partly because I

couldn't get closer than 100 yards from the lamination part of the plant, but also because I was asked to sign a non-disclosure form before entering.

Can't say I blame them for that. What the folks at WL Gore have is a product unique to the market. When they say their fabric is waterproof, that's exactly what they mean.

I should know. I was dressed in a Gore-Tex jacket, trousers and socks, and put inside the 'Rain Room' at the plant where I was rained on for ten minutes. When I stepped out and de-robed, I was as dry as the middle of the Sahara.

The ePTFE polymer was discovered by chance in the 1950s by a research scientist named Bill Gore. Encouraged by his son Bob, he founded WL Gore & Associated, Inc., and they went into production, manufacturing Multi-Tet cable, used in computers and so on.

Further research showed the polymer to have characteristics applicable to the manufacture of many other products and, nowadays, WL Gore's influence is present in a host of industries, including aerospace, military and defence, healthcare and, of course, golf.

Encouragingly, the relationship between them and Galvin Green gets stronger year on year, which, naturally, means drier rounds, more often for us golfers. Them keeping their secret, then, is clearly to our advantage.



The WL Gore manufacturing plant



adidas Golf CLIMAPROOF STORM STRETCH WOVEN/SOFT SHELL JACKET

- **Details:** With this adidas jacket you get adjustable cuffs, two front zip pockets, articulated elbows and a three-year waterproof guarantee.
- **RRP:** £124.99
- adidasgolf.com



Bruce Clark ELITE FULL-ZIP JACKET

- **Details:** All zippers and flaps are waterproof, giving you total protection on the course. Despite this, it is both breathable and light, thanks to its ultra-lightweight fabric and design. Also available as a suit, the Elite jacket gives you a free-swinging motion due to the 'swing easy' cut.
- **RRP:** £109.99
- bruceclark.com



Woodworm GOLF WATERPROOF

- **Details:** The highly-breathable multi-layer material allows sweat moisture and excess heat to escape without letting rain or wind in. Additionally, it features velcro wrists so you can prevent excess moisture leaking in, and a 24-month waterproof guarantee.
- **RRP:** £99 (suit)
- thesportshq.com