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Gotta say these sandals have been my go-to for three weeks straight, dealing with all kinds of stuff like heat and water without missing a beat—they totally lived up to what I hoped for. The Keen Newport H2 proved to be a serious hiking sandal that scored high during my performance tests on the rugged trails of Mount Rainier and my kayak adventures on the Pacific Coast. Much like the original Newports I've relied on for 7–8 years, the Keen Newport H2 sandals feel a bit heavy. However, their closed-toe design offers performance that's hard to beat. They excel in waterproofing and provide ample arch support, even for high arches. With that in mind, let's dive into this Keen Newport H2 review to see how these sandals performed on my adventure. FeatureKeen Newport H2 Weight~13.4 oz (approx. 380 g) per sandal Water ResistanceQuick-drying; water-resistant upper; not fully waterproof TractionMulti-directional lugs; excellent grip on wet and dry surfaces ComfortEVA midsole; hydrophobic mesh lining; suitable for long wear AdjustabilityBungee lace system; adjustable fit BreathabilityPolyester webbing; quick-drying; moderate breathability DurabilityHigh-quality materials; abrasion-resistant; reinforced toe cap Arch SupportModerate; suitable for high arches Toe ProtectionClosed-toe design; KEEN.PROTECT toe bumper PROS Good arch support for long hours of wear Closed-toe-box design protects against rocks and debris Impressive traction on various surfaces, providing stability Adjustable straps allow you to tighten the shoes to your foot shape Quick-drying materials make them suitable for water activities CONS Slightly heavier compared to some other outdoor sandals Not as breathable as open-toe models During my tests, I encountered a variety of terrains—wet rocks, slippery surfaces, and loose gravel. The non-marking rubber sole of these hiking sandals delivered excellent grip and stability. The multidirectional lugs on the Keen Newport H2's outsole effectively bit into the ground, offering reliable traction on both wet and dry surfaces. I felt confident navigating rocky paths as the shoes maintained a secure grip. Even in wet conditions, like walking along riverbanks or crossing streams, the traction remained impressive. The lug pattern efficiently channeled away water and prevented slippage, allowing me to keep a steady stride. One minor drawback I noticed was that the sole tended to collect small pebbles and debris in the lug grooves. Although this didn't significantly affect overall traction, it did require occasional clearing to ensure optimal performance. These Keen Newport H2 water shoes are compatible with water sports, and made with a combination of durable polyester webbing and a hydrophobic mesh lining. During my testing, I purposely exposed them to water by walking through shallow streams and splashing around in puddles. The materials repelled water, keeping my feet dry and comfortable. What impressed me most was Newport's quick-drying nature. After submerging this water shoe, it efficiently shed off the moisture and started to dry within minutes. However, I want to highlight that, while the materials are highly water-resistant, they are not completely waterproof. In prolonged exposure to deep water, a small amount of moisture did manage to seep through. Keen footwear is usually constructed with high-quality materials, and this model, with its sturdy sole and durable polyester webbing, doesn't disappoint. I walked in these Keens on rough terrains and abrasive surfaces, and despite the intense use, they showed minimal signs of wear and tear. The rubber sole exhibited impressive resistance to abrasion and maintained its grip even after extended periods of use. However, I did notice some minor fraying on the edges of the webbing after extensive use. While it didn't affect the performance or structural integrity of the shoe, it did somewhat diminish the aesthetics. In terms of breathability, the Keen Newport H2 offers a mixed experience based on my testing. The shoes feature a hydrophobic mesh lining, which is designed to enhance airflow and promote ventilation. During moderate activities and in normal weather conditions, the breathability of the hiking sandals was sufficient. I could feel a gentle breeze passing through the mesh, helping to keep me cool and comfortable. During intense physical exertion or in hot and humid weather, however, the breathability of the shoe seemed to be somewhat limited. I noticed that my toes would occasionally feel damp and warm, particularly in situations where I was exerting more energy or the temperature was high. Overall, I found this hiking shoe quite comfortable, providing a pleasant experience during my various outdoor activities. The metatomical footbed is contoured to match the natural shape of the foot, providing excellent arch support and cushioning. Moreover, the midsole of the Keen Newport H2, made of compression-molded EVA foam, offered a good balance between cushioning and responsiveness. It absorbed impact effectively, providing a comfortable stride on various terrains. From my experience with these shoes, the toe box is not too generous, so I recommend sizing up if you have wide feet. The Keen Newport H2 is constructed with a combination of synthetic materials and a non-marking rubber outsole. While these materials provide protection, they do contribute to the overall weight of the shoes, which was 2 pounds and 0.16 ounces for the size 12 I tested. As a result, I noticed that they felt heavier compared to some other shoes or flip-flops I've worn. This aspect became more apparent during longer expeditions or when traversing challenging terrain. I could notice a slight difference in my energy expenditure compared to wearing lighter sandals, but this difference was not significant enough to cause discomfort or hinder my overall performance. Finding hiking shoes that mold to your foot from the start can be tricky, but these Keens feature a secure lace-up closure system with a single point of adjustment from a loop of elastic with a cord lock, which makes things a lot easier. Nevertheless, since I was aware that Keen shoes tend to run narrow, I contacted Keen to ensure I ordered the right size for my wide feet. It proved that I needed a half-size larger, and the first pair fit me well from the start. With a minimal break-in period, the shoes become super comfy for my summer adventure. I was truly relieved that I didn't need to order a second pair, as I really don't like to deal with returns. This sandal is comfy and has a midsole that's great for absorbing shock on rough ground or rocks. The cushioning relieves pressure spots, so your feet don't hurt, and you can walk longer without getting tired. Plus, you can adjust the straps for better support. Tightening them gives a better fit and helps avoid rubbing which can lead to blisters. Having tested both the Keen Newport H2 and its predecessor, the original Newport, I can confidently say that the newer version has undergone notable improvements. The newer model features a more open and ventilated design, allowing for improved airflow around my toes. This was a welcomed modification as it prevented my feet from becoming excessively sweaty, especially during hot and humid conditions. Moreover, the Keen Newport H2 introduced a refined and more secure fit with its adjustable closure system. Despite these improvements, the previous version had a slightly sturdier build, which offered a bit more protection for rugged terrains. Additionally, the overall weight of the original Newport was lighter, making it a preferable choice for those seeking the utmost lightweight experience. Terra Fi 5 Universal and Keen Newport H2 are two pairs of sandals I used interchangeably for years, and they are equally impressive in terms of quality control and all-day comfort. The Terra Fi 5 Universal offers outstanding traction with its rugged sole, making it ideal for challenging terrains, while its cushioned midsole provides good comfort for long trips. However, the Keen Newport H2 are closed-toe sandals, which makes them more suitable on uneven terrain. They also excel in comfort due to their adjustable bungee lace system, which dries out fast, so you don't have to walk on wet feet. The ECCO Yucatan is a pair of comfortable sandals designed for everyday wear. They are light and feel more like running shoes, featuring a molded EVA midsole that guarantees good support even if you have flat feet. While the Keen Newport H2 excels in wet environments, the Yucatan offers a more stylish design suitable for both outdoor activities and everyday wear. On the other hand, the Newport H2 focuses on providing good toe protection and water performance with its sturdy rubber bumper and quick-drying webbing upper. If you need a pair of water shoes, you will find the Keen Newport H2 extremely comfortable, but you may feel more relaxed in a pair of Youcatans if you are just looking to take a stroll. Both the Keen Newport H2 and Bedrock Cairn Adventure are rugged outdoor sandals but they perform their best in different situations. The Keen Newport H2 is designed for adventurous activities, featuring a protective toe bumper and a secure fit. It excels in padding, ensuring comfort during long trips. In contrast, the Cairn Adventure prioritizes lightweight construction and a minimalist design, providing a barefoot-like feel and enhanced ground sensitivity. While the Keen Newport H2's sole delivers excellent traction on various terrains, including wet surfaces, the Cairn Adventure's Vibram sole offers reliable grip, although it may not perform as effectively in extremely wet conditions. In my experience, these Keen Newport sandals perform exceptionally well if used in specific terrains and conditions. They are a great choice for water-related activities, such as river crossings, kayaking, or beach outings. Also, the closed-toe design provides excellent protection against rocks, pebbles, and other debris, making them ideal for rocky trails and rugged terrains. The quick-drying materials and drainage ports allowed for water to escape easily, which helped me stay comfortable and dry. Additionally, the sturdy outsole, with its multidirectional lugs, offered excellent traction on both wet and dry surfaces, providing stability and preventing slips. While the Keen Newport H2 has proven to be a reliable choice, I did encounter a few areas where they fell short in performance. One aspect I noticed, compared to other top-notch hiking sandals, is their weight, as they are not as lightweight. Additionally, the padding, while adequate for moderate hikes, may not be sufficient for those requiring extensive foot support or dealing with specific foot conditions. However, these issues were manageable, and I could address them by using additional insoles or adjusting the fit. They proved suitable for hiking, walking on uneven surfaces, and even navigating wet environments. Based on my experience testing the Keen Newport H2 sandals, I am pleased to recommend them. These closed-toe sandals performed well across various terrains, offering impressive grip and time resistance. Also, the quick-drying feature was particularly convenient during water activities. I might have gotten some sand or small pebbles inside, but it was nothing compared to an open-toe box sandal. In fact, I appreciated the protective toe box that kept sharp rocks away from my toes and kept me focused on my expedition. It is generally recommended to shop for a half size up when purchasing Newport H2 sandals. They tend to have a slightly smaller fit, so going up a size ensures a more comfortable experience. The main difference between Keen Newport H2 and Hydro is the closed-toe design. The Newport H2 features a protective toe box, making it suitable for activities where toe protection is necessary. On the other hand, Keen Hydro is a more streamlined and open-toe version, offering a lighter and more breathable option. All Keen sandal models are considered top-notch due to their extremely versatile design, great traction, and premium materials. They can handle tough trails and usually dry fast after being exposed to water. Yes, Keen Newport H2 sandals are suitable for hiking due to their traction and water-resistant features. However, they may not provide the same level of support as hiking shoes for more challenging adventures. The KEEN Newport H2 hiking sandals can be aptly described as "amphibious." Ideal for hikers in need of durability, this adaptable sandal-sneaker hybrid performs well in both wet and dry environments. Featuring a quick-toggle bungee lace system and a grippy outsole, they ensure a secure fit and excellent traction, even on steep or slippery terrain. The thick midsole provides remarkable energy return, making these sandals a great option for those who prioritize comfort on extended hikes. However, the Newport H2 may not be suitable for hikers with wider feet because of its snug fit, and the heel strap can become uncomfortable during prolonged use. Weighing close to 11 ounces per shoe, they are heavier and bulkier compared to standard hiking sandals, which limits their practicality for those seeking a lightweight, packable option. Nevertheless, their capability to serve as both hiking and water shoes makes them an appealing choice for diverse outdoor adventures. You can see more options in our women's hiking sandal gear guide. Runner-Up hiking shoe-sandal hybrid CleverHiker Rating: 4.2/5.0 Price: $130 Weight (Pair): 1 lb. 6 oz. Adjustment Points: 1 Closure Mechanism: Quick-toggle bungee lace (ankle) Fantastic energy return from midsole Handles a variety of terrain exceptionally well Toe bumper protects toes from rocks & other debrisCan also be worn for trail running Eliminates need to pack sandals for water crossingsSlender fit is ideal for narrow feet Not packable compared to a traditional hiking sandalHeavyToe box tapers & may not work for wider feet Our tester didn't love the KEEN Newport H2 regarding fit and comfort. They felt a bit too narrow for her feet (and she has a pretty neutral width), both through the midfoot and in the toe box, even with the bungee laces adjusted as loosely as possible. Someone with narrower feet may want to consider these, as they'd likely provide a more secure fit than many other hiking sandals. The heel strap began to dig into her Achilles tendon after about 1.5 miles, and it really started to hurt after approximately three miles of hiking. It reached a point where our tester was frequently stopping to readjust her feet and the straps to relieve the pressure. However, it's not all bad. We really like the midsoles on the Newport H2s: they're on the thicker side and are quite rigid, but not in a bad way. They don't absorb shock like sneakers, but they provide a great deal of energy return, which makes us feel light and bouncy on our feet. We wore these with socks and without socks; without them, we noticed a blister forming where the heel strap pressed into the Achilles on both heels. Yet, despite the tightness of the heel strap, we had ample room between the ends of our toes and the front of the shoe, which we were thankful for. We found the arch support on the Newport H2s to be greater and more comfortable than similar styles, such as the HOKA Hopara 2 and KEEN Rose. Our tester took the KEEN Newport H2 on a variety of trails to test their comfort, stability, and traction. You won't find many hiking sandals that provide more stability than the Keen Newport H2s. Since these are sandal-sneaker hybrid shoes, they fit much like trail running shoes in that they are snug, secure, and protective. For our tester (who has neutral feet), they are almost too snug, so we wouldn't recommend them to individuals with wide feet. The midsole is rigid, which enhances stability but diminishes ground feel. You won't feel rocks beneath your feet in the Newport H2s. The upper is flexible enough to permit full flexion and extension of the toe joints, yet snug enough to keep your feet secure even when moving downhill at fast paces. Notably, due to their snug fit, these could be a good option for people whose feet tend to get very sweaty. We wore these on a warm day, and despite our feet becoming quite sweaty, they did not slip around in the sandal. The Newport H2s can be worn for water activities, running, hiking, and walking. We wore the KEEN Newport H2 sandals on various trail surfaces, including dry, packed dirt, loose sand, gravel, and chunkier rocks. We also took them up and down steep, gravelly inclines on forest roads. They performed well in every scenario, even on the steeper, slippery segments. We even ran down significant declines and didn't experience any issues with slipping or sliding. Additionally, we wore these during a few on-and-off rainy days at camp, where we spent a lot of time walking around in the dirt and mud to cook, play with our dog, and work out. We are thoroughly impressed with their traction, especially considering the outsole lugs aren't particularly deep. The rubber is just that sticky! Our tester getting ready for a hike with the KEEN Newport H2 sandals. These are certainly among the top options for durability in hiking sandals. The outsole and toe bumper are constructed from dense rubber, while the upper features a combination of suede and woven textiles. All fabric components incorporate double-stitching to reduce the risk of fraying or loose stitches. Additionally, the bungee laces are thick and durable against fraying. The only issue we foresee is with the plastic lace toggle. It's a fairly delicate piece, so with continued use, it could break. So far, however, we have encountered no problems. The KEEN Newport H2 features bungee laces with a quick-toggle system for a secure fit. We don't consider these shoes packable, and we don't think most hikers—especially backpackers—would either. Weighing nearly 11 ounces per shoe, they are among the heaviest sandals we have ever worn. In addition to their weight, they are quite bulky and would be cumbersome to pack as a second pair of shoes. However, the intent behind the shoes is to eliminate the need for packing a water shoe entirely. If it's warm enough outside, you can simply wear these KEENs for all wet and dry segments without needing a second pair. So, while not packable, they could ultimately help you reduce your pack weight in this way. The Keen Newport H2 perform well on moderate, gravelly surfaces. Our tester found the Newport H2 quite difficult to put on and take off. Because there is no adjustment point on the heel, she had to loosen the bungee laces all the way, and even then she struggled to slide her feet into the sandals. It was somewhat of a battle, she admits, and with wet or sweaty feet, it was even worse. People with narrower feet may not have an issue sliding their feet through the somewhat small ankle collars. The Newport H2 features heel tabs to help pull the sandals on. If you're a narrow-footed hiker looking for a durable, versatile sandal that performs well on both wet and dry terrain, the KEEN Newport H2 is worth considering. Its amphibious design eliminates the need to pack separate water shoes, and its excellent traction and energy-returning midsole make it suitable for various trail conditions. However, hikers with wide feet or those prioritizing lightweight, packable footwear may want to look elsewhere. For those who value stability, durability, and a secure fit, the Newport H2 is a reliable investment. The midsole on the KEEN Newport H2s is thick and sturdy. If the KEEN Newport H2 doesn't quite meet your needs, there are several similar hiking sandals to choose from. These alternatives offer unique features and advantages for hikers with different priorities and foot types. Keen Rose Review: Even narrower than the Newport H2, this lighter, more feminine alternative uses a simple Velcro strap closure system (as opposed to the Newport H2's bungee lace with toggle). While not as rugged, it performs well on mild trails and offers sufficient protection for light hiking, casual outings, or water activities. Ecco Yucatan Review: The Ecco Yucatan is a classic hiking sandal known for its all-day comfort and impressive arch support. Its three adjustable straps ensure a customized fit, making it a great choice for neutral to narrow feet. Ideal for warm-weather day hikes, it's versatile enough for urban exploration and outdoor adventures alike. HOKA Hopara 2 Review: The HOKA Hopara 2 blends hiking shoe stability with sandal breathability. Its closed-toe design and aggressive outsole lugs excel on most trails, while the cushioned midsole offers exceptional energy return, especially when bounding downhill. This hybrid sandal is perfect for those needing extra protection and traction on challenging, wet, or rocky paths. Although closed-toe sandals aren't what we typically think of when we picture a sporty and high-performing piece of footwear, there is no denying their utility and performance in the right conditions. With its waterproof materials, protective toe box, and excellent wet traction, the Keen Newport H2 stands out as perhaps the premier watersports sandal on the market today. With excellent wet performance and solid scores in most of our rating metrics, it again takes home our Top Pick Award for a closed-toe sandal. The protective upper material and a sturdy sole design make the Newport H2 one of the most stable and supportive models in our lineup.Credit: Nick Bruckbauer Comfort This model scores well with its protective toe box and firm, supportive midsole material regarding overall comfort. Even our testers who aren't keen on the closed-toe design found their feet happy in these. The toe box and instep material of the Newport H2 offer far greater protection from stubbing your toe in a rocky river or getting jabbed while bushwacking. The upper material is neoprene-backed webbing so that every point of contact with the foot is water-resistant and cushioned to resist chafing. Not only does the neoprene make for a more comfortable ride, but it also dries much quicker than nylon and provides better performance when wet. The rest of the shoe is designed with watersports in mind as well. Plenty of negative space within the upper material helps let water exit the footbed and dry out wet feet. The footbed consists of a dense, closed-cell foam that is resilient in water and very comfortable and supportive — even for high arches. One notable downside of the closed-toe design is that any sand and silt inside the shoe gets trapped and has difficulty leaving. Hiking through a rocky and sandy creek bed, we had to stop several times to dump the sand out of these kicks. A soft footbed, neoprene padding, and greater protection make the Newport H2 one of the most comfortable sandals in this review. Traction While it doesn't have the same all-terrain grip as some of the top-performing sandals in our lineup with Vibram outsoles, the Newport H2 does have a similar stiff rubber outsole optimized for wet performance. With a sporty tread design that bites into dry surfaces and small sipes reminiscent of those found on winter vehicle tires, our testers were pleased by how well this shoe grips in wet conditions and how quickly the sole can transition from wet to dry surfaces. While the Newport H2 occasionally falters on extremely slick surfaces like steep sandstone or slimy river rocks, it still provides some of the best wet-condition traction among the competition. Despite not having Vibram sole material, the rubber outsole material of the Newport H2 feels and performs much like the high-end name-brand. However, it lacks the super angular and aggressive tread patterns characteristic of trail shoes and doesn't perform as well as others in mud or through loose, gravelly materials. Overall, however, we were impressed with the Newport H2's traction, especially considering how light and spongy the sole feels. The Newport H2 is a great choice for watersports or wet adventures with its water-resistant materials and optimized wet traction.Credit: Nick Bruckbauer Stability Resembling a shoe more than a sandal, closed-toe models may typically have the upper hand in overall stability. The Newport H2 has a sturdy sole material that is impressively stiff and resilient for how relatively light it is. Add to that a rubber-reinforced toe box and full coverage around the foot, and you've got a trail-ready multi-purpose sandal that can stand up to miles of abuse. While there are stiffer, more bomber sole materials, the combination of the sole material, toe box, and upper material make this one of the most stable models we've tested. One potential shortcoming concerning the stability of the Newport H2 is that some users may find it challenging to get a genuinely snug and supportive fit. The elastic 'laces' that pull the upper webbing material tight over the top of the foot are comfortable and easy to use but might not allow you to crank things down tightly if you have narrow or lower-volume feet. This could translate to foot slippage inside the shoe on more extreme downhill or sidehill terrain for users who cannot get a comfortably snug fit. The Newport H2's thick sole is very stable on wet and uneven terrain.Credit: Nick Bruckbauer Adjustability Unlike having straps and buckles like most other sandals, the Newport H2 uses a loop of elastic with a cord lock that achieves a similar snug closure as regular shoelaces. This adjustment system is elementary to grasp, but the single tightening mechanism doesn't provide the ability for a truly custom fit. This metric presents one of the lowest scores for the Newport H2 but is up against some worthy competition. Many other models are highly adjustable, with two or three adjustment points to give the user a more customizable fit, although they can sometimes be tricky to get acquainted with. That's what we like about the adjustment system on the Newport H2, simplicity. Sometimes the no-frills, straightforward approach is favorable. We wish it had even one extra adjustment point so that users with smaller feet could still get a snug enough fit for more challenging conditions. The quick-tightening bungee lace system is easy to tighten and loosen.Credit: Nick Bruckbauer Versatility Although it's truly at home in the water, the Newport H2 still performed well in every field test we put it through — even sandal-unfriendly activities like biking and skateboarding. Our testers agreed that the toe box and greater coverage gave them top-of-foot protection and the confidence to treat this sandal like a bonafide hiking shoe. But the amphibious nature of the Newport H2 is undeniable; it is reliable both in and out of the water. While the Newport H2 can take you through all kinds of conditions and terrain, the closed nature of this sandal again makes it challenging to remove sand and small pebbles once they've snuck inside. Because of this, it's probably not ideal for wearing at the beach or anywhere you'll travel through small, loose material. Overall, the Newport H2 is highly adaptable in the various scenarios we presented. Worn with socks and pants, you'd even believe you're wearing a street shoe, not a Sport Utility Sandal. The Newport H2's wet traction is among the best of any sandal on the market.The extra coverage and toe protection on the Keen's mean that it is capable of handling snaggy bushwhacks and other demanding activities with ease. Should You Buy the Keen Newport H2? The gray area between shoe and sandal doesn't have to be unapproachable. The Keen Newport H2 sets the bar for closed-toe sandals and is a comfortable, capable, and trustworthy option for many types of users. It may not be the first thing you think of when sandals come to mind, but it's worth checking out, especially if you're looking for amphibious adventure footwear. The price point is on par with what we'd expect from a high-quality product from a major footwear manufacturer. While certainly not cheap, this price is fair for the quality of materials and construction in this sandal and its top-of-the-line performance. It also gets you a one-year warranty should Keen's craftsmanship fail. What Other Sandals Should You Consider? This Keen sandal excels at stability and foot protection but is heavier and doesn't offer the best traction or adjustability. If you want something lightweight with more versatility and better traction, the Bedrock Cairn Adventure is the one for your shortlist. It has impressive traction and better adjustability for almost any foot size. It is versatile and comfortable compared to the competition, with a lower price than the Keen. If you want something more substantial than the Cairn but not as shoe-like as the Keen, the ECCO Yucatan is a good middle-of-the-road option that provides stability and comfort with an open toe but better protection overall than the thong-style design of the Cairn. For other great options, check out our men's water shoes review. We reached for the Keen Newport H2s on a long sandy hike in the Grand Canyon where we worried about comfort over traction and warmth. While you could wear neoprene socks or a drysuit with these river sandals, you'd be better off looking toward a river shoe for warmth. Yet the H2s were excellent for our desert wanderings and wading, we just hesitated to trust them on slick surfaces. The Keen Newport H2s scored high in comfort in bare feet.Credit: Monica Nigon Comfort The Keen Newport H2s scored high in comfort due to their conforming footbed and solid cinch mechanism that seemingly molded to the form of our feet. They had nice arch support despite being a sandal, and a protective toe covering to avoid a bashed in big toe on all the plethora of sharp and dense things you might bring on a river trip or boulders you might encounter on a hike. The H2s were incredibly comfortable lounging on the raft and walking around camp. We loved the durable cinch mechanism, which kept them from slipping off of our skinny heels, and the straps, which kept out rocks while hiking. Traction The Keen Newport H2s struggle with traction on hard, wet surfaces like rocks, boulders, and sticks. However, their outsole has adequate lug depth to power through sandy beaches without walking in place. While the H2s did pretty well in sand, they were somewhat like skis when it came to navigating a cold Colorado stream where we scrambled over wet rocks of various sizes. We also found the rubber not tacky enough to make us feel confident while navigating a large gear raft. The traction capabilities of these two shoes could not have been more different.Credit: Monica Nigon Warmth The Keen Newport H2s scored pretty low when it comes to warmth, but if you buy a river sandal, that's probably not what you're concerned about. The H2s kept our feet cool in the desert and allowed water to flow in and out without pooling, but our toes were pretty frigid in a cold Colorado stream. They offer nice protection from the sun as opposed to a more open sandal, but you probably won't be wearing these shoes with socks or a drysuit on a colder day. These are hot day and desert sandals for sure. Versatility The H2s are middle of the road when it comes to versatility. Their sandal design makes them great for chilling at camp on an overnight trip or cruising around town, and their lug depth makes them suitable for side hikes on soft, dry surfaces. The Newport H2s have a shallow lug depth, which makes them great for side hikes on dry surfaces.Credit: Monica Nigon Sensitivity The H2s scored low in sensitivity due to a lack of flexibility and a rather thick outsole. They were unable to fold around a raft tube or large rocks very well, making us feel unstable when navigating terrain that required more proprioception. We took the H2s creek walking in southwestern Colorado and found it difficult for us to trust our feet below us while on slippery underwater rocks. They weren't flexible enough to fold with one hand, one of our tests for assessing sensitivity. The H2s have a thick outsole, which is nice for durability but not so much for sensitivity.Credit: Monica Nigon Durability Despite being a river sandal, the straps on the Keen Newport H2s performed admirably when it came to durability. The straps are thick enough to avoid abrasion or breakage from extended use. The outsoles are really thick, which is a boon for durability but compromises their sensitivity and flexibility. The H2s performed well across sharp sticks and rocks and showed only a tiny bit of fraying after extended use in a sandy environment on the Colorado River. We stepped on pointy rocks and sticks and found the thick outsole to hold up well against the elements. Should You Buy the Keen Newport H2s? We found these river shoes/hiking sandal hybrids to be a great option to bring along on your multiday when you really need to get your feet out of those damp river sneakers for a side hike or have a day of flat water on a warm day. If you prefer a sandal, head on over to our article on the best sandals for women and pick out a good pair. What Other Women's Water Shoes Should You Consider? For something with a lot more tackiness on hard, wet surfaces with the ability to layer for all sort of weather conditions, we prefer a proper river shoe like the NRS Kicker Wetshoe or the Astral Brewess 2.0. The Keens were great for side hiking and had excellent drainage, but aren't great for wearing with layers for added warmth.Credit: Monica Nigon We appreciated the lab-verified comfort and durability of the KEEN Newport. The sandal also impressed us during our tests because it needed zero break-in time, had great looks, and had excellent waterproofness. This sandal is indeed one that could be with us for long, even when it's exposed to the harshness of the elements. Top pick in best closed toe hiking sandals Comfortable hiking sandalDurable constructionWell-cushioned platformWide and stableOK for both hot and cold weatherEffective traction on various surfacesZero break-in period Too heavyLargely inflexible structure Top 13% in hiking sandalsWho should buy All the necessary benefits can be enjoyed upon owning this KEEN product. It is a solid option if you: prefer a hiking sandal that provides traction on various obstacles encountered during hikes want a hiking sandal that grants ample toe protection appreciate a sandal that you can wear in hot and cold, bright and dark on the lookout for a hiking sandal that keeps the user's foot comfortably dry and fresh during hikes Who should NOT buy Sure, the KEEN Newport is durable. However, its sturdiness came with a price; it put on some weight. Hikers who want a lighter pick might be happier with the Hurricane Drift from Teva. Fair warning, though; the Drift is a good alternative but it isn't the most durable. Your browser does not support the video tag. There might be hikers who'd find the stiffness of the Newport a bit too uncomfortable. The Hoka Hopara may not be the most flexible, but it's way more flexible than the KEEN Newport. Cushioning Heel stack The heel is just as thick as the average at 27.0 mm. This much material delivered just the right amount of impact protection that we needed to keep our walks comfortable and pain-free. Newport 27.0 mm Average 26.7 mm Compared to 9 hiking sandals 15.9 mm Heel stack 30.9 mm Newport 17.7 mm Average 19.0 mm Compared to 9 hiking sandals 13.8 mm Forefoot stack 23.0 mmDrop Just like many shoes and sandals, the Newport from KEEN has a slightly elevated heel. This ensured more impact protection in the heel and a bit more ground feel in the forefoot. Your browser does not support the video tag. Our caliper measurements and calculations led us to conclude that this sandal has a heel-to-toe drop of 9.3 mm. Newport 9.3 mm Average 7.8 mm Compared to 9 hiking sandals Midsole softness Note: a low durometer measurement equals a soft material, whereas a high measurement means it's firm. The midsole of the KEEN Newport felt slightly softer than average. Our every step got the cushioning that it needed to keep pain at bay. Our HA durometer in the lab confirmed our initial observation. The device gave the midsole's softness a rating of 22.4, which is significantly lower than average. Newport 22.4 HA Average 26.8 HA We use an average of four tests. The photo shows one of those tests. Compared to 9 hiking sandals 18.9 HA Midsole softness (soft to firm) 35.1 HASize and fit KEEN Newport is true to size (106 votes). Compared to 9 hiking sandals ½ size small Slightly small True to size Slightly large ½ size largeToebox width - widest part At its widest part, the toebox is just as wide as the average. Our caliper measured its width to be 102.7 mm. This shoe follows methodology 1.7. It has been replaced with methodology 1.8 (the 'gel test') on more recently updated shoes. Results from the two methodologies cannot be directly compared, which is why you don't see recently tested shoes in the chart below. Newport 102.7 mm Average 102.6 mm Compared to 9 hiking sandals 89.6 mm Width / Fit 109.4 mmStability Torsional rigidity Just because it delivered so much durability did not mean that the base of the KEEN Newport felt like a brick. Quite on the contrary, it was moderately pliable, garnering a score of 3 out of 5 in our torsional rigidity test in the lab. While it was firm enough to protect from twists, it still allowed some level of flexibility that is needed in rocky and slopy areas. Compared to 7 hiking sandals Newport 119.3 mm Average 120.1 mm Compared to 9 hiking sandals 112.6 mm Midsole width - forefoot 125.1 mmMidsole width - heel Just like the forefoot, the heel area is as wide as we expected it to be at 88.8 mm. There was not an instance when our foot fell off the footbed. Newport 88.8 mm Average 92.3 mm Compared to 9 hiking sandals 81.6 mm Midsole width - heel 100.5 mmFlexibility / Stiffness When it comes to torsional rigidity, we'd already seen that this KEEN sandal had a moderate amount of give. However, its longitudinal flexibility seemed to put on way more resistance. Using a shoe flexing tester, we measured how much force was needed to bend the shoe by 30 degrees. At 13.2N, it turned out to need notably more force than a typical hiking sandal. On one hand, this makes the KEEN Newport more supportive as it minimizes foot flexion on rocky terrain. But at the same time, it may not feel as comfortable, grounded, and maneuverable as the more traditional hiking sandals. We believe that you will appreciate its stiffness if you are after a more hiking shoe like experience. New test (recommended) Old test Newport 13.2N Average 10.7N Compared to 5 hiking sandals 7.4N Flexibility Stiffness 14.8NWeight The durability of the KEEN Newport is due in part to having more and/or thicker materials in its critical parts. Unfortunately, such an uptick in durability resulted in a drawback in weight. Our scale reported this sandal's weight to be 14.6 ounces or 414 grams. This number makes this sandal 43% heavier than average! That's a lot! Now, if a light sandal is deemed more desirable, we recommend the Hurricane Drift from Teva. It weighs only 7.2 ounces or 204 grams! Newport 14.6 oz (414g) Average 11.1 oz (315g) Compared to 9 hiking sandals 6.3 oz (179g) Weight 14.6 oz (414g)Durability Toebox durability The Keen Newport sandal did perfectly well in our toebox durability test. Our Dremel drilling left an obvious mark on the toebox, but this area has a lot of material to burn and the damage barely affected the toebox's integrity. It's a perfect 5 from us for this sandal's toebox durability. KEEN Newport (5 out of 5) versus Adidas Terrex Swift R3 GTX (2 out of 5) Putting the two shoes side by side, it's clear that the damage seen on the toebox of the Terrex Swift R3 GTX from Adidas is far more critical than the damage seen on the Newport. Heel padding durability We subjected the heel strap to some high-pressure Dremel drilling, and it unfortunately suffered considerable damage. We could only give it a score of 2 out of 5 for durability. KEEN Newport (2 out of 5) versus Hoka Anacapa Mid GTX (2 out of 5) Like the KEEN Newport, the Hoka Anacapa Mid GTX also got a 2 out of 5 in our heel counter durability test. Given the amount of rubbing that hiking usually brings, we do not think that the rearfoot areas of both these shoes are going to last long. Outsole hardness The outsole displayed slightly more hardness than the average sandal with our HC durometer giving it a rating of 84.8. The outsole's hardness came quite handy when we had to walk over rough surfaces such as river sides and grounds full of gravel. Newport 84.8 HC Average 79.5 HC We use an average of four tests. The photo shows one of those tests. Compared to 9 hiking sandals 50.5 HC Outsole hardness 85.5 HCOutsole durability Hands down, this sandal has AMAZING outsole durability. Our Dremel drilling in the lab resulted only in a dent that's 0.6 mm deep, which is around 74% shallower than the dent incurred by the average hiking footwear. If longevity is what you desire, then the KEEN Newport is the hiking sandal that you should be getting. Our confidence in this sandal's longevity was reinforced when we verified its waterproofness during our test strolls during wet days outdoors. Newport 0.6 mm Average 1.8 mm Compared to 7 hiking sandals 0.0 mm Outsole wear 2.0 mmOutsole thickness At 2.1 mm, the outsole is only as thick as the average. We didn't have problems with this number since the outsole delivered a good deal of sturdiness. Newport 2.1 mm Average 2.4 mm Compared to 9 hiking sandals 0.0 mm Outsole thickness 3.6 mmMisc Lug depth We appreciated the bite that the KEEN Newport had on many surfaces that we walked on. When assessed in the lab, we learned that its lugs are 3.1 mm deep. We could safely say that this sandal is indeed one for hiking, and on a wide variety of surfaces at that! Newport 3.1 mm Average 2.9 mm Compared to 9 hiking sandals Reflective elements This hiking sandal was usable not only in changing weather (hot and cold) but also in changing lighting conditions (bright and dark). Because of its reflective features, we were confident using it during the night. Upper material thickness The amount of padding in the tongue was just around the average at 4.4 mm. Though it did not feel special, we also did not have anything to complain about. Newport 4.4 mm Average 4.5 mm Compared to 9 hiking sandals 1.5 mm Tongue padding 8.2 mmHeel tab The KEEN Newport's finger-loop heel tab made it extra easy to put on and take off. It's an add-on that we truly appreciated. This article may contain paid links where we make a small commission for purchases you make from links that you click from this article. By purchasing through our links, you support us at no additional cost. Thank you for your support ❤. For more details, read the disclosure page. When travelling, you need reliable footwear that can handle many conditions including tough terrain, water, and long days. For more than a decade, I've relied on these pair of sandals. With this Keen Newport H2 review, you'll learn why I love them so much. Here's a breakdown of the Keen Newport H2 sandals and why it should be worthy of your attention. When it comes to any type of travel gear, versatility is one of the most important factors of whether something makes it into the suitcase/backpack or not. The reason why the Keen Newport H2 sandals are so good is because they just get the job done. Where these sandals shine are in the warm climates where you want the ventilation and freedom that flip flops provide but with the structure of a solid hiking shoe. These sandals allow you to go hiking up to the hilltribes in Northern Thailand while also being great exploring the rice paddies of Bali. Both of these were part of my first time wearing these Keen's. The best example of versatility comes from a recent 2 week itinerary to the Greek Islands. On the island of Milos, there are some epic beaches but you have to work to get down there. Holding onto a weathered rope, you have to squeeze between jagged rock walls, make your way around rocky footing, before climbing down a rickety wooden ladder. You can get them wet. The water flows right through. You can get them sandy. Shake your feet and it'll come right out. You can hike mountains. The razor-siped sole provides insane traction. You can walk in them for days. With tons of air, you'll stay cool while the webbing keeps your feet in place and the insole provides tons of cushioning. As sandals, they are also easy to pack in a suitcase or hang off the back of a backpack since the tops are collapsible and there's a giant loop behind each sandal. 7 Essential Apps For IcelandLastly, I love the lace system on these shoes. There are no laces to tie. Cinch down to tighten and cinch up to loosen. You can pop these sandals on and off with ease. Alternative special Made in USA Newport H2's (discontinued) I've had readers comment here about the insoles or upper webbing breaking apart but to be honest with my pairs, this has never happened to me. The Keen Newport H2's have gone through many trips, many terrains, and tons of water and I haven't had any faults with them. These hiking sandals are easy to wash and if you need to you can even throw them into the machine wash. When we talk about the adjustable parts of the shoe and the secure fit lace system, the cinching mechanism has never failed and the elastics haven't worn down at all. Your mileage may vary of course but from my experience, the Newport H2 sandals are constructed extremely well. I eluded to this earlier but these are super comfy in hikes and also long days out when you're pretty much walking the entire day. Much of the comfort is attributed to the technology built into these hiking sandals. Compression molded EVA midsole – supportive yet firm. Keen Protect – the protective toe box keeps your stubbing your toes or getting jabbed. Neoprene webbing – The neoprene used in the upper part of the shoe not only is water-resistant but also cushioned to prevent chafing. Waterproofing – The waterproofing all around including the neoprene means that water dries quickly to bring you back to comfort. Bottom sole – Not only is it designed for traction but the foam is also firm and supportive, even for those with high arches. If you're headed to a tropical vacation, instinctively you might be thinking that water shoes will be a better fit. Sure water shoes can be be cheaper but from my experience their throw-away nature means that they're really only good for one thing – walking into water from the beach where there may be sharp coral and rocks. The issue with most run-of-the-mill water shoes is that their foam used is quite mushy and soft which provides protection but lacks the confidence you need to do any serious hiking with them. The other issue is that the fabric used throughout the shoe is ironically typically not very water proof and quick dry. This means that water tends to pool up in and around which makes it not so comfortable once you're out of the water. To that end, you can see that water shoes are great when in the water but not so much out of the water. Keen Newport H2's are amphibious and that's what makes it worth the investment. ExOfficio Boxers Review - Give-N-Go 2.0 For Men There are 3 things that are downs