

EAGLE WINGS MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION



Riding in the Cold - Clothes

Suggestions only

Undergarments

- ⇒ In dressing for cold weather, begin with long undies. Make sure you get a set that is long enough in the torso and legs so that they don't ride up when you bend over to grab the handlebars.
- ⇒ Next a long sleeve shirt and warm pants.
- ⇒ Warm socks.

Jackets

- ⇒ A high quality, comfortable jacket is one of the most sought-after. Jackets must be comfortable. When trying one on, sit on your bike while wearing it, if possible, before deciding whether it fits or not. Be careful that the jacket is long enough in the torso and the arms. A jacket that is too thin or bulky will flap and balloon in the wind which will make you tired and reduce your body's ability to keep you warm. Also look for a high collar that will keep the wind out of your neck area, and ensure the collar snaps or zips up all the way to the top. Double cuffs so wind doesn't get up around your wrists, and a good wind-flap over the main zipper are important as well.
- ⇒ An electric vest is a lightly quilted vest that plugs into your bike's electrical system. It is worn under your jacket. Some models have a thermostat that controls the amount of heat produced by the vest. It will also have an on/off switch.

Pants

- ⇒ Insulated pants or chaps are a very good investment if you do any sort of cool weather riding. Electric chaps are available as well as non-electric. The better ones are made of Car-dura nylon, and are usually coated to be rain resistant (not usually water-proof). They are easy to get on and off, are comfortable, and won't leave you with cold legs. These also function as added abrasion protection.

GLOVES

- ⇒ Winter gloves must protect against cold and rain.
- ⇒ Be insulated with Dupont Thinsulate® or some other similar material.
- ⇒ Don't buy gloves that are too bulky in the palm lest you lose the feel of the bike and its controls.
- ⇒ Make sure that your gloves have long gauntlet type cuffs that will fit over your jacket sleeves to ensure no wind gets up your arms.
- ⇒ Most gloves are at least water resistant. Some have a little zip-up compartment in the cuff area which houses a waterproof cover should you get caught in a sudden downpour.
- ⇒ Get gloves that have a felt strip on the index finger on the left hand. This allows you to wipe water from your visor without scratching it.
- ⇒ With all gloves, summer or winter make sure that there are no rough seams in the palm area. If you ride for a couple hours with a seam between your hand and the grip, you will feel it!

ADDITIONAL TIPS

- ⇒ Something to protect your neck from the cold. Whether it's a commercial or home-made model, a lot of riders consider it an essential piece of cold weather riding gear. The simplest kinds are a felt type material cut into a bandanna shape where the ends connect together at the back of your neck. This keeps wind from coming in and going up your helmet or down your jacket. Some more elaborate models actually fasten onto the bottom of your helmet and form a seal from your helmet to your chest.
- ⇒ Balaclavas can be also be very nice. You can buy them in silk or numerous synthetic materials. They are like hoods that pull over your head and extend to your chest.
- ⇒ When buying a neck insulator, ensure that it has enough material to reach to your chest, or else it'll come untucked from your collar when you shoulder check or look up.

Just because the item is inexpensive, doesn't mean it will keep you warm!!