

Lightweight synthetic clothing – such as T-shirts and underwear – can be washed in a hotel sink and dried overnight on a shower rod or towel rack (cotton fabrics take too long to dry in this manner).

Zipper-lock plastic bags of various sizes can be extremely useful for organizing items in saddlebags and duffle bags. They can make it easier to find and retrieve particular items without unpacking your entire motorcycle. Use the one-gallon size to pack one day's worth of clothes – jeans, undergarments, and shirt. This makes it easier to unpack just what you need.

Don't fold your clothes – roll them. They take up less space that way.

Pack items that have more than one use. For instance, don't pack just a pocketknife; pack a "Swiss-style" knife or multi-tool.

When traveling with other riders, conserve space by comparing packing lists. You may be able to avoid packing some duplicate items.

When traveling (two-up) with a spouse or "significant other", ask yourself tough questions such as: "Can we share a tube of toothpaste?" and "Can I get by using her shampoo for a week?"

On long trips, consider bringing your rattiest underwear (or other clothing) – then just throw it away when you're done with it!

Few things are as easy to pack as money or credit cards. If you're struggling with whether to bring a particular item, consider whether it's worth buying on the road if you end up needing it.

Don't forget to consider the weight of what you're packing, as well as the volume. Whenever possible, lighter is better. (And don't forget to check the cargo weight limits of your bike – as well as the bags and racks – and adjust the tire pressure and suspension accordingly.)



When loading your bike, keep as much weight as possible close to the bike's center of gravity. That means low and toward the tank, distributed evenly from side to side. Remember to check your owner's manual for the cargo weight limits of your bike.

A day or two before you leave, do a dry run. Pack the bike and go for a short ride, then adjust the load as needed.

If you're camping, set up your tent once or twice before you leave (and don't forget to waterproof it). Practice setting it up in the dark. To save space, roll up some of your clothes in your sleeping bag.

Pack all your cold weather and raingear no matter what time of year it is.

Plastic bags make great boot liners if you forgot your gaiters. If you forgot your rain gloves, rubber dishwashing gloves make great, inexpensive substitutes.

A small towel can be wrapped around your neck during a rainstorm to keep water from running down your back – and doubles as a shop rag.

Below is a long list of potentially packable items, grouped into several different categories. Items that might be considered "essential" are marked with an asterisk. Consider this list a starting point – a "virtual" pile on the floor. Then remove (or add) items according to your own needs and limitations. Print this page and mark the boxes next to the items you pack for your trip. Then, save it for future reference as a handy packing checklist.

Clothing

- * Helmet
- * Rain jacket and pants
- * Rain gloves
- * Summer gloves
- * Winter gloves
- Overboots or rain gaiters
- Heated gloves
- Hand warmer packets
- Glove liners
- Heated vest liner
- Skullcap
- Microfleece neck warmer
- Balaclava
- Fleece head wrap
- T-shirts
- Socks and underwear
- Synthetic long underwear
- Long-sleeved shirts
- Turtleneck shirts
- Extra jeans
- Light jacket
- Leather/cold-weather jacket
- Chaps
- Leather pants
- Riding boots
- Leather or denim vest
- Bandanas – two
(one for face; one for neck or forehead)
- Sunglasses
- Goggles/night eye protection
- Change of shoes
- Sock liners
- Cooling neck wrap (such as Kool Tie)
- Windbreaker or light jacket

Bike Maintenance

- * Tool kit
- * Replacement fuses
- 8-in-1 screwdriver
- Spare spark plugs and plug wires
- Genuine Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Oil
- Paper funnel
- Small can of multi-purpose spray lubricant
- Motorcycle jumper cables
- Turn-signal and brake-light bulbs
- Tire gauge
- Bike cover
- Harley Care Starter Kit

Personal

- * Basic toiletries
- Emergency cash
- Change for tolls
(keep in easy-to-access place)
- Sunscreen
- Lip balm
- Nail clippers
- Handkerchief
- Tweezers
- Small package of tissue
- Cotton or earplugs
- Contact lens solution
- Moisturizing eye drops
- Fork and spoon in plastic wrapper
- Traveler's roll of bathroom tissue
- Moist towelettes/baby wipes

Emergency Items

- * Personal first-aid kit
- * List of emergency contact numbers
(include doctor/medical professional)
- * List of current medications
- * List of medical conditions
(include allergies)
- * Small waterproof flashlight
- * Spare key
- Basic cold and headache medicine
- Antihistamines
- Insect bite stick
- Utility light
- Emergency blanket
- Cellular phone and charger
- Telephone calling card
- Small candle
- Waterproof matches and fire-starting kit
- Duct tape
- Electrical tape
- Small amount of (baling) wire
- Bottle of water
- Energy food bars
- Eyeglass repair kit

Miscellaneous

- * H.O.G. @ *Touring Handbook*
- * H.O.G. membership card
- * Bike registration and insurance info
- * Motorcycle owners or service manual
- Motorcycle warranty card

- Various nuts, bolts, washers
- Torx and allen wrenches
- Closed/open-end wrenches (standard and metric - bring only the ones common to your bike)
- Basic socket set with one drive (bring only the ones common to your bike)

- Two or three large trash bags
- Small can opener
- Bike lock
- Extra zipper-lock bags
- Small towel