

PACKING FOR TRAVEL TIPS

****DO NOT OVERPACK YOUR MOTORCYCLE.***

Check your motorcycle manual for the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating. GVWR is the total weight of the motorcycle, accessories, maximum weight of rider, and cargo that can be safely carried on the motorcycle. The manual will also be specific to your bike about the weight that can be carried over each axel, **Gross Axel Weight Rating**. Every motorcycle has a specific rating for the model of motorcycle you are riding. This info may also be included on the information label located on the frame downtube.

****DO NOT OVERPACK YOUR SADDLEBAGS.***

The owner manual will also give you the specific weight limits for the side bags and tourpak.

****Keep the cargo weight as low and as close to the motorcycles center of gravity.***

****Distribute the weight evenly on both sides of the bike.***

****Do not overweight the luggage racks.***

****Make sure that all cargo is secure and will not shift while riding and recheck at each stop.***

****TEST RIDE YOUR CARGO BEFORE LEAVING!***

If your bike is properly loaded and not overweight, handling will not be an issue. Ride curves and sharp turns feeling for easy maneuvering/stability. If you are fighting the bike, that means you are not stable, **RELOAD THE CARGO**.

****DO NOT OVERPACK, PERIOD.***

If you think you may need it, leave it. Items can always be purchased along the route if you decide you really did need it. **TAKE ONLY WHAT IS NECESSARY.**

****Pack Washables.***

Many clothing items are easily hand washed at the end of day. You do not need 14 pairs of panties! It is easy to find laundry mats or facilities at or near your hotel. It is not necessary to pack 5 pair of jeans either. This may be gross to some, but ask any seasoned, long haul rider, and they will tell you the sniff test works great. If it doesn't smell, it is still wearable.

****Do Not Pack 10 t-shirts and 10 pair of socks.***

You will be purchasing t-shirts along your route as mementos. You will be receiving your official convention t-shirt. Some ladies start the trip with old t-shirts and trash them as they go. Air out your socks at night, then wait for washer/dryer stop.

****Toiletries.***

Pack travel size bottles, think airport security. Leave the hair drier at home. If one is not in the room, ask the front desk.

****Do not forget to pack your tools, sunscreen, extra bungee cords/nets, road maps, flashlight and extra fuses.***

These are important items. They take space to pack. **EVALUATE YOUR NEEDS.**

****Be prepared for hot, wet and cold.***

****Leave a spot for your water bottle. Drink your fluids!***

With each and every item you pack, think to yourself is this really necessary and do I really need this many? Remember that the stability of your bike is the utmost of importance.

To much weight can cause mechanical problems. Excessive weight can cause an accident. Are those extra jeans, boots or toiletries worth your life?

Safety Tidbets,
Jan Watts, Safety Officer