

Feature Product

“Hydration Jacket” from Harley-Davidson

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Anyone who has been living in Arizona (and we mean the Valley area) knows that summer means starting your ride early and being back at the shack before noon! Hydration is the key to comfort and survival. Drinking water may mean more than the 8 glasses of water a human should have daily anyway.....

Covering up or avoiding direct sunlight is the second most effective way to keep your core temperature down. That's why we wear white long sleeve shirts in the summer to avoid sunburn.

Mesh jackets have been popular with motorcyclists for the value of protecting and being cooler than a conventional leather jacket. Air flow is increased, protection from sun and wind while maintaining a protective layer in the event of an accident.

So how does a rider in Arizona find happiness if he/she happens to be riding to Blythe Ca., its only 11:00am and 102 degrees outside?

Enter the “Hydration Jacket” from Harley-Davidson!

This new product is not completely revolutionary but it does combine the best of two technologies to offer comfort and protection. The “Hydration Jacket” is basically a mesh jacket that has cooling zones incorporated through a series of strategically located hydration pouches!

The larger cooling pouches are in the body of the jacket while smaller pouches go in the sleeves replacing traditional armor in the jacket.

The cooling is achieved by simply immersing the pouches in water to activate the cooling material and reinserted them into the lining of the jacket.

These pouches can last as long as 6-8 hours and reduce the temperature by 10 degrees or more depending on the conditions. They are re-usable but do have a limited life of about 50 uses!

The jacket still remains functional as a standard mesh jacket and replacement pouches should be available by Harley the end of this Summer.

Additional Harley also makes a Hydration Vest that can be used as a layering piece.

Some riders do use it without a mesh jacket and can still benefit from the cooling effect generated. This is more than Swamp Cooler or Evaporative Cooling since the garments use a chemical that prolongs the reduction of heat even as the garment dries out naturally.

And now the good news.....Other products are out there that do the same thing but originated in other recreation activities! “Cool Medics” has been making this kind of product for years for use in the equestrian industry to cool off riders and the horses themselves! Heat can kill a performing horse or deplete a rider during competition.

To that end the same process is used to make blankets, leg protectors and head gear for horses which led to producing clothing for the rider. Jackets vest, neck wear and helmet liners are made to cool off riders. The “Cool Medics” product cost a little more, but has an extended life of up to 400 uses.

So, relief is available to the hardcore rider who ventures out long after others have packed it in for the day.

Remember though that the best defense against heat exhaustion is still drinking plenty of water, frequent rest stops (preferably in the shade) and protective gear to keep the sun and wind off our bodies.

Stop by Arrowhead Harley-Davidson and check both of these heat reducing products!

