

## AZBIG's Tip on: Care, Maintenance and Repair of Your Riding Leathers!!!

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Cooler weather has arrived and you've probably pulled your leather jacket, chaps and gloves out of the closet. Just like faithful friends they travel with you on the great adventures but never reveal the details of these outings except with their tell tale road grime, splashed bugs and scuff marks.

Ideally you cleaned and conditioned them prior to tuckin' em away but if you didn't now would be a good time to consider some TLC for them. There are lots of quality products available. Word of warning on choice--use one formulated for garments, not your horse's saddle! Any surface residue left by the product will attract dirt--formulation is important.

If your zippers and snaps are failing it may be time to evaluate the merits of repair vs. replacement. Repair is appropriate when the fit is still okay and the repair cost doesn't exceed replacement cost. Alterations can be made on most jackets, vests and chaps--again the cost factor. Sometimes the memories outweigh your common sense and you'll do anything to keep your leathers.

When buying new it is important to determine the balance of quality garment construction and initial cost. If you purchase a really inexpensive jacket and the zipper fails in the first 6 months was it really such a good buy! Sometimes expensive doesn't equal quality so I encourage you to test all the snaps, pocket linings and zippers before you buy it.

See you on the road...

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