

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

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## **Proper Riding Apparel a personal choice or overlooked necessity?**

By definition motorcycle riding apparel is clothing developed by apparel manufacturers to protect riders in multiple weather conditions and when accidents occur. Look around at riders on the streets and roadways and you will see everything from full body coverage to shirtless, shorts and sandals!

There are many options available and it is a personal choice what you consider proper riding gear. Individually determine what risk factor you are willing to take and choose your gear accordingly. Clothes that are meant for other activities (such as sports) and the fabric and style are not appropriate for the factors and forces that come into play when the wind is whipping at your face!

As a safety factor you should investigate and purchase gear that offers superior protection to areas of the body where the bone is just below the surface of the skin e.g. knuckles, shoulders, hips, knees and ankles. These areas take the longest time to heal. Grade your gear in terms of a crash and slide accident. Will your pants, jacket and gloves stay where they are meant to be or will they slide up or down as your body slides along the road and expose your skin, muscle and bone?

Sliding across the road on your bootie causes a huge amount of heat to be generated. This means that any garment that can only take a cool iron will melt if it comes into contact with the road surface in a slide. Synthetic or leather? Both have advantages and disadvantages. Leather can last as long as 30 years, but are usually a dark color and visually harder to see. Synthetic is usually brightly colored but does not last as long. Many styles have pads in critical areas and removable liners that make them suitable for different riding conditions. The professional full body leather riding suit with armor offers the most coverage but may not be the top choice of the street riding crowd. Denim jeans is a popular choice but studies have shown that cotton is not resistant to the abrasive forces in a motorcycle accident. Denim styles are available with Kevlar in critical areas.

Choose a boot that will brace your ankle and has a hard sole that will not bend, twist or collapse thus preventing your foot from being crushed. Studies show that in non fatal accidents the most common permanent, debilitating injuries are to the feet, ankles and lower legs.

Gloves--protection, protection, protection. The skin around the fingers and knuckles is thin and does not heal easily. Again, keep your hands protected...

Helmets, that's a topic for another day!

Enough of the what if's---see you on the road...

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