DRUID DRIBBLE

Edition 1 Volume 5 – Topic: Ziplock Bags

Waterproofing – something that is near and dear to anyone who rides in all weather or has the potential to be caught in a storm. Today's "Ziplock" style bags are better than ever quality wise. What is neat about these bags is that they come in assorted sizes and are relatively inexpensive. If you tear one, just pull another from the box. Consider…when empty, they lie flat and can be easily stored. So, this is what you need to do…when your spouse is not looking, sneak into the pantry (note to self, it always pays to reread your stuff as originally I forgot the "r" in pantry and spell/grammar ck didn't catch it) and there on a shelf will be assorted sandwich bags, trash bags, leaf bags, etc. I highly suggest you grab some "Freezer" style "ziplock" style bags. Ok, if you fear your spouse (as I do) or are a baseball, hot dogs, apple pie honest kind of guy, take a trip to your local HEB or Walmart and purchase your own. I like the "Freezer" style as they are more durable. If you can get a double press and seal vice the single seal, all the "mor bettah" as they say in Maine. Remember that commercial where a person is given the choice of holding a ziplock style bag of bees with one seal or the other bag with two seals? Ziplock brand is the Cadillac of bags, but I find the "Texas" bags at HEB are an acceptable option and are considerably less expensive.

As a practical example: Take several 2-gallon sized bags and put them in your tourpak or saddle bag. Next time you go out to eat, you will probably have leftovers. All leftovers usually have some sort of gravy, salsa, sauce, or juice. Bring 1 or 2 of these bags into the restaurant and put your leftovers into the bag instead of trying to place that huge takeout container into your tourpak or saddle bag. Another example? On a trip, you may decide to bring with you a bottle of your "favorite beverage". Put it in a ziplock bag so everything in your tourpak or saddle bag doesn't get soaked with the stuff when after a bump it either breaks or the top comes off when it shifts and tips over. You will thank me later.

I got the snack bag size, the sandwich size, the quart size, the 1-gallon size and the 2-gallon size. I reuse these bags until the point they become compromised or have had food in them. Snack sized bags are good for meds and other small items. On a trip or long ride, I usually place some $$, another credit card, and another form of ID into one and pack it away in case I lose my wallet. I also bring my other key fob/key <u>with the battery removed</u> and place it into one of these small snack bags and usually store it in my tank bag. You need to remove the battery, or you will never be able to arm your security features on your bike. Remember, if you lock your spare key fob/key in your tourpak or saddlebag and you lose your original key fob/key, you will have to break into your own bike to retrieve your spare set. You will then be securing your broken tourpak or saddlebag with duct tape and/or zip ties. Ahh, the joys of duct tape and zip ties but that will be for another day.

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I also have a box of construction thickness trash bags. If I put anything on the luggage rack on top of my tourpak or place a duffle of some sort on the passenger seat, I line the inside and sometimes the outside with these bags. Those water resistant (unless it rains) Cordura bags are always suspect (especially at highway speeds in the driving rain) no matter what brand they are or how much you paid for them.

When I used to deploy to areas of the world where there were lots of spiders, centipedes, and scorpions, along with any jungle environment, I used to ziplock all my clothing inside my rucksack. I then placed a construction thickness bag as a liner to my rucksack. My stuff stayed dry and insect free. In one particular operation, we had to cross a river that showed an intermittent steam on the map. My floating ruck made it a breeze to cross that river as the others were fighting a sinking rucksack and then they were forced to carry a thoroughly soaked and now heavy as hell ruck for the next several days of our patrol. Of course, if you are crossing a river or a flooded low water crossing after a deluge with your Harley, write to me and let me know how that went for you. At least your clothes will be dry. In a pinch, you can also make a decent rain suit from these bags. The smaller ziplock bags along with some rubber bands can also be worn over your gloves and/or boots to keep them dry or to defeat the effects of the wind.

When packing, also consider some stuff bags and in some cases, compression bags. Consider your rainsuit…folded up and placed in your tour pak or saddle bag, it takes up a lot of room. Fold or roll it up tightly and place it in a compression bag and then pull down the tightening straps, this size XXL rainsuit is now the size of a softball.

Bottom line, these bags weigh basically nothing and take up no space. Push the air out and they will also offer some limited compression. Putting on warm dry clothes at the end of day, sipping a beverage of your choice as everyone else is fighting off hyperthermia, hanging their stuff up in the shower and are scrounging coins to run the dryer in the hotel… priceless.