

If you are new to riding in the cold there's some things you need to do to stay warm.

I'm new to street riding and didn't have the money for electric so I decided passive was the way to go for me.

When riding in the cold you need 3 layers (unless you go electric) Each layer performs a different function and they work together to protect you from the cold as well as keeping you dry and comfortable on long rides in the cold.

Base layer - wicks moisture off the skin

Insulation layer retains heat

Outer shell blocks the wind

I find by using layers like this I get the best results

Base layer is so important to comfort. I get started with some jockey microfiber compression shorts.



Right now I'm using Terramar base layer top and bottom (merino wool is best but \$\$) the base layer is designed to get moisture off the skin and help regulate body temp. I have tried several and I really like the Terramar stuff. There are lots of choices for base layers and the prices vary.



Next up something warm

I use a thin down jacket and some sweat pants or just the zip in lining in my pants but it varies. Depending on how cold it is. When it's cold I use both.

The nice thing about the down jacket besides being very warm and breathable is how small it can be packed and the weight is next to nothing.



My down jacket has a zip up turtle neck that fits right into my helmet for a good seal.

Over that is the outer shell that blocks the wind and seals you in.



I have a cheap Built jacket that works and just got some tour-master venture pants that really like. The Built pants didn't breathe at all and there would be a lot of moisture build up in them. The Tourmaster pants release moisture so they never get damp inside.

Pant legs fit snugly over my boots to seal out the wind.



For gloves, I have tried many but the best ones so far were only \$ 50 and really work well. Tourmaster Cold-Tex 2.0 Glove

I bought them a little large because the extra space in the glove helps trap air and that keeps me warm. The gauntlet style fits over the ends of the jacket sleeve and no cold air can penetrate. These gloves have a lining that allows moisture to escape so your hands will not get wet from built up perspiration. I had some lesser gloves that would get so wet inside that they would take days to dry out so although they were less money they were unusable.



For boots I wear some insulated and waterproof Chippewa's. They are a pain to get on and off but my feet never get cold. Most motorcycle boots don't come in extra wide with a high instep so I searched all over for a boot that I could ride in that would work with my extra wide cave man feet, when I stuck my foot into this boot I knew it was the ONE. I searched after I found the right one because of the cost but I later returned to the one that fit right.



You're also going to need to protect your face and keep your head warm. When I got a street bike I decided not to go cheap on a helmet. And after 10,000 miles in my 1st helmet I'm so glad I didn't get a cheap one. I've worn it at 90 degrees and 30 degrees and it's served me well. Great venting for the summer and seals up tight for the winter. The Liner is removable so you can wash it if it gets funky. It's also anti-microbial so washing isn't necessary very often.

The Helmet also seals tight around my collar and under my chin so ice cold air won't penetrate when riding at speed. There's nothing worse than an ice cold stream of air up the back of the neck.



For the cold you need full face with a pin lock lens. I don't see how you can enjoy riding with anything else when it's cold out.

If you have never used a pin lock lens it's a separate layer in the wind screen that works like a thermopane window trapping a thin layer of air between lens and the windshield allowing the lens to warm up, keeping fog from forming. I've been out at 40 degrees and raining sealed in and no fog. The lens is the essential element to maintaining vision when you are sealed in.



My helmet also has a little chin vent that lets in just the right amount of air to keep it fresh in there but not so much that I get cold. All summer I wondered if that vent was working but when the cold air came again I was happy with the way it only lets in just what's needed without freezing you out.

There's also a top vent and a rear exhaust vent but when it's 34 out you don't want that much air unless you're going slow. The exhaust vent is nice because it helps remove moisture from the back of the helmet, the top vent is essential when it's hot out and sometimes useful at low speeds when it's cold.

With my current gear can do 60-90 minutes on the highway in the low 30's before I need to stop for a coffee. All day on the back roads is not a problem.

Always interest in what others are using for cold gear.

Cold riding can be fun but not when you're cold so layer up and stay warm and comfortable and keep an eye on the temp. When it goes below freezing black ice can form. It's time to head back to the barn before that happens.