

# RFTW Motorcycle Packing Checklist

1. This document is just that, a checklist. It is not the gospel on what to pack. Think of it as a 'memory jog' of items you might not have thought of before. **Use what works for you.**

2. The general tendency is to pack things you THINK YOU MIGHT NEED. Don't! Available space is at a premium. **Pack only those items you KNOW YOU WILL NEED.**

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Clothes, etc. for 1 week (not counting the clothes you start off riding in). Plan on washing clothes each week. Pack Light and Tight. **Roll clothes, do not fold them.**

## Personal Items:

- Jeans (1)
- T-shirts (5) Plan on buying a couple
- Long sleeve shirt (1)
- Leather or denim jacket (1)
- Sweatshirt (1)
- Underwear (6)
- Socks (6)
- Gloves, light weight (1), winter (1)
- Sneakers or topsiders (1)
- Gator (1) and neckerchief (1)
- Dopp kit
- Belt
- Chaps and vest

## Rain Gear:

- Rainsuit (1)
- Rain booties (1)
- Rain gloves (1)
- Small fold-up umbrella

## Motorcycle:

- Bike cover (1)
- Road maps and map marker (1)
- Cleaning rags (4)
- S100 (1)
- Motor oil (1qt)
- GPS (1)
- Sunscreen (1)
- Flags (2)
- Bungies (4) or cargo net (2)
- Tool kit (1)
- First aid kit (1)
- Garbage bags, lg. (3)
- Plastic zip bags, lg. (4)

## Miscellaneous Items:

- Sunglasses (1)
- Book (2)
- Camera (3 disposable)
- Computer ?
- Cell phone and charger
- Money/ATM card/check book
- Camelback or water bottle
- Flashlight + spare batteries

## Miscellaneous Arrangements:

- Stop newspaper
- Take care of mail
- Feed fish/dog/cat
- Water plants, etc.
- Disconnect garage door openers
- Clean pool filters
- Set a/c's to 85 degrees
- Turn off coffee pot/etc.

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## Other useful info:

- Use large black plastic garbage bags to “line” any bags that aren’t waterproof. Murphy’s rule of thumb is if it’s possible for something to get wet, it will, so line them all.
- Designate one exterior bag (like a trunk external bag) to hold your extra coats, gloves, bike cover and rain protection (the last thing to pack on top). That way you always know exactly where those things are and can get to them quickly should the weather suddenly change.
- Two people can easily travel on one bike and carry everything they need for a week. Happens all the time. For example, if you own a dresser, designate one saddlebag and half the trunk to each person. With the “known” amount of room available, it’s up to each to see who can be the most creative in his/her packing. If you don’t have a touring type bike and have fewer/smaller bags available, it is suggested that you only pack for three days (instead of the week), thus cutting in half the clothes you need to bring. Just plan on hitting the laundermat twice as often.
- Keep in mind the kind of weather you might anticipate when you choose your clothes for the trip to Washington, D.C. (and your return).
- Pack an un-cuttable chain or cable for your bike so that you can lock it to something that won’t move (e.g. like another bike, light pole, or fire hydrant chain). Thieves will look for “easy prey”, like a bike they can lift each wheel onto a skateboard type dolly, then quickly run your bike up the ramp of their truck and boogie. If your bike is locked to something other than itself they’ll pass it right by.
- Make every effort to equalize the weight in each sidebag. Lopsided weight can be very dangerous, especially in a “panic” maneuver or on wet/damp pavement. Pack the heaviest items on the bottom to lower your center of gravity and improve your handling.
- A two-up heavy bike loaded with traveling gear does not handle the same as that same bike does at home with only the rider on it. Care should be given to toning it down a bit to “cruising” speeds rather than “bar-to-bar at hair on fire” speeds.