

Motorcycle Checklist: items to consider placing on you and/or your bike when riding

Item	Comments
Valid Driver's License with the Motorcycle Endorsement on it	Failure to have one can cost allot of money and time.
An up-to-date Insurance Card	<p>Insurance is a gray area that often is misunderstood. To clarify - FL does not require you to carry insurance on your bike, like you do your car. You can register without insurance, unlike your car. However, FL does have a personal financial responsibility statute, 324.01 7(a)(b). If you have a wreck and cause injury to other persons or property, you better have proof of financial responsibility. State of FL says that can be liability insurance or either a Financial Responsibility or Self-insurance Certificate from Bureau of Financial Responsibility. (Ins not required with the certs) of course, if you have a bike note, your lender has probably required the ins.</p> <p>This is NOT to be confused with required proof of medical care coverage if you decide to ride without a helmet. (FL does have a helmet law, contrary to popular belief). I personally know of 2 people who were ticketed for not wearing a helmet and not being able to show proof that they had \$10k in health insurance on them at time of ticket. One got ticket thrown out because he showed up to a court with his benefit package that showed his BCBS card had minimal requirements; the card alone did not satisfy the LEO, rightfully so, because it did not state value.</p>
An up-to-date registration	It's the law.
Emergency Contact Numbers	This includes HOG road side assistance information.
Helmet	Whether you like to wear one or not, your call, but please remember that we do allot of riding in States (Alabama for one) that require the use of helmets. See comment about insurance cards.
Cell Phone	In case you need to make emergency calls.
First Aid Kit	Just one accident makes this worth having
Compact Tool Kit	Thinking I don't need a tool kit extensive enough to dissemble/reassemble my bike while on the road.
Air gauge	quickest way to burn up your tires, besides burnouts, is to have under/over inflated tires. Not to mention the safety aspect.
Rain gear	Being wet "stinks" while on a bike.
Air intake/cleaner "rain sock"	Having an "open" air intake and sucking water into an engine is not desirable.
Bike cover	Not really a necessity but nice to have if you get caught in a heavy rain storm or to use at night during overnight trips.
Extra set of gloves	How many of us have dropped their gloves onto the hot exhaust of our bikes?
Extra set of riding goggles/glasses	How many have become damaged or left at a stop?

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Flash/Thumb Drive	Try to download the GPX of every ride you go on to a Flash/thumb Drive and then load it into your GPS. However, GPS' can and do inadvertently lose their loaded rides. Better safe than sorry. Realized that not all bikes have a GPS.
Road Atlas	Even if you have a GPS please remember that it is not "if" it will fail, but "when".
Small roll of duct tape	That, a crescent wrench, Philips and common head screw driver can be used to pretty much hold most things together to get you home safety. Notice, "most" things.
Small roll of electrical tape	Harley's vibrate, when it vibrates something is "rubbing" something somewhere. Play it safe and have a roll
Extra cable/charger/battery backup for smart/cell phone	If it is mechanical or electrical it is not "if" but rather "when" it is going to fail.
Credit Card/Debit Card/Extra Cash	We all try to avoid toll roads where possible but sometimes it cannot be helped. Plus, if you have ever found yourself stranded overnight without one of these then you will only have to experience it once to know that it "stinks".
Aspirin, Tylenol, and Alieve	Riding and in pain really "stinks". Plus it is a safety hazard.
Sunblock	Nothing like a good sunburn to spoil a ride.
WATER (or some other appropriate beverage)	We all ride for "wind therapy" but please realize that the wind dehydrates you more than you think. Plus, being stranded on the side of the road, in summer, and thirsty just adds insult to injury and could be potentially dangerous
Wire Ties	Great for securing a cable, attaching a device, and etc.
Super Glue	Tears in seats, help in holding a light on, and etc.
Setup your cell phone to make emergency calls without passcode	Makes real good sense. Others cannot contact your loved ones if you are unconscious and they cannot get into your phone.
Folding Knife/pocket knife	101+ different uses.
Flashlight	Will wish you had one if you find yourself broke down on the side of the road at night.
Flares and/or Emergency flashers	Great to have when/if broken down at night. Most bike batteries do not last long when emergency flashers are being used.