

OUR KIT

MCN staff test
biking products 'til
they break -
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£59.99

Held Zaino

The welded seams and rolltop closure of this tarpaulin bag make the main compartment 100% waterproof. There are three external pockets, one of which is made from mesh. As well as being brightly coloured, it has light-reflective strips. The shoulder, waist and chest straps are all adjustable.

Capacity: 20-30 litres **Colours:** Black/white, white/red
Contact: www.held-uk.co.uk

£97.52

Bags Connection Baracuda

This rolltop rucksack is made from fully waterproof TPU (see jargon). It also has an internal padded pocket, which will take a laptop, and an external zipped pocket. There are reflective panels and adjustable shoulder, waist and chest straps.

Capacity: 30 litres
Colours: Grey/black
Contact: www.motohaus.com



£49.99

Oxford Aqua 25R,

With a rolltop closure this waterproof and tearproof tarpaulin bag has welded seams and adjustable shoulder, waist and chest straps. There are two external pockets, a water-resistant zipped front pocket and a mesh side pocket.

Capacity: 25 litres
Colours: Fluro green, white
Contact: www.oxprod.com



£64.44

Kappa WA402S

No water is getting past this 100% waterproof tarpaulin bag with welded seams and a rolltop closure. There is a padded back support and a bright orange helmet carrier, both of which can be removed. The padded shoulder straps are fully adjustable, as are the waist and chest straps.

Capacity: 30 litres
Colours: Black
Contact: www.kappamoto.com



£64.32

Givi WP403

The largest of this selection is colossal. Made from TPU (see jargon), it has heat-sealed seams to make it waterproof. There is one external pocket and reflective panels. It has a rolltop closure and padded adjustable shoulder straps, along with adjustable waist and chest straps.

Capacity: 35 litres
Colours: Black
Contact: www.givi.co.uk



JARGON BUSTER

TPU: Thermoplastic polyurethane is a material frequently used in rucksacks because it's hard-wearing and waterproof.

Helmet carrier: Some bags have a pull-out carrier for a lid, which is usually a net with a drawstring strap so you can carry a lid around while not riding.

Reflective material: A rucksack is the perfect position for safety-conscious retro-reflective material, which reacts to a car's headlight beam and shines brightly to help car drivers see what's ahead of them.

Straps: It's pretty obvious what shoulder straps are for, but waist straps keep the bag's weight close to the rider and chest straps stop the shoulder straps splaying apart in the windblast. Make sure clasps on waist straps can sit slightly to one side, to avoid scratching the tank. Chest straps should not sit too near the throat.

Rolltop: The ideal closure method for good waterproofing - the open top is rolled over a few times and then secured with clips at the side. If the material is waterproof, it stops anything getting in through the aperture.

Welded seams: If two sheets of material are stitched together, there are holes that will let water through. Welded seams use heat and pressure to fuse the sheets together, creating a waterproof barrier.

Pockets: Often, a bag's main compartment is waterproof while the external pockets are not, as zips and stitching make them vulnerable to ingress. If you're carrying anything that will be damaged by water, store it in the main compartment.