

THE MCN SHOWCASE

SPRAY-ON BIKE CLEANERS

Ward off winter's worst with these wieldy washes

- Cleaning power rated
- Value assessed on number of washes
- Tested on bikes ridden through serious crud

RATINGS

Exceptional ★★★★★ Very good ★★★★
Good ★★★ Average ★★
Poor ★

MCN BEST BUY



S100 Total Cleaner+ £15.99 (1 litre)

'Cleans the bike for you'

Tested by Martin Fitz-Gibbons

I've spent at least 15 years searching for the mythical magical bike-cleaning potion – the one that actually scrubs and dries your bike for you, leaving all the hard work to clever chemicals while my limited resources of elbow grease are untroubled. This unctuous yellow goo, made by S100 (formerly SDoc), is easily the most complete, comprehensive and compelling cleaner I've used. Spray it on, wait 15-20 minutes, agitate the really greasy and grotty stuff with a brush, then hose (or jetwash) it all off.

The cleaning power, both on general road grime and dead flies, as well as more stubborn stuff like chain lube, is better than anything I've come across, while the bottle says reassuring bike-friendly things

like "contains no acid". That said, there is also a warning to keep it away from unlacquered aluminium, and not to use it in hot sunshine (fat chance in Britain). Its final nifty trick is something in the mix that helps water run off, which makes drying the bike itself afterwards noticeably easier. Super-effective, but also super-expensive – though right now your £16 buys a full litre rather than the usual 750ml.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.motohaus.com

PROS & CONS

- + Takes the effort out of cleaning your bike
- It's not cheap but it does work very well



Really does to what it says on the bottle



Silkolene Wash Off cleaner £7.29 (1 litre)

'Seriously good at lifting dirt'

Tested by Richard Newland

As a country-dwelling winter rider I probably get my bikes dirtier than most. This Silkolene spray does a good job of cutting through the muck. Spray it on, leave it for a few minutes – and you really can see it getting under the dirt and lifting it off. I still use a soft brush and a sponge to agitate and get into all the nooks and crannies, but it's light effort. Aim a decent hose or carefully used pressure washer at the muck soup, and it falls away to leave a streak-free, sparking finish. It doesn't eat alloy or discolour certain paint finishes. I get around three big bike washes per bottle, and my only real criticism would be that it's a little too watery (and it's not S100).

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.silkolene.com



R&G Nano Bike Wash 1 litre £7.99 (1 litre)

'Smells nice, but needs effort'

Tested by Dan Sutherland

You need to rinse your bike thoroughly, before covering with the biodegradable concoction and giving it three to five minutes before spraying off with plenty of water. Agitate any stubborn splodges before the second dowsing, too. Although easy to use and filling my garage with a delightful aroma of summer berries, it did struggle to tackle some tougher road grime with plenty of scrubbing and the occasional extra coating of spray needed.

Quality ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★
www.rg-racing.com