

2 XCP Cleaner & Degreaser

£5.95, 1L

www.sportsbikeshop.co.uk

XCP is well known for its anti-corrosion bike spray – we have used several of its products in the past. Its bike wash is a cleaner and degreaser, with a recommendation to dilute up to 10:1 for pure cleaning, as opposed to degreasing – that’s a potential ten litres from a one-litre bottle.

We doubt anyone would ever thin it out quite that much though, so we don’t, diluting to a 2:1 mixture instead (two litres from a litre bottle). As a result, the XCP goes on a bit thin and although it has a wide jet and spreads easily, you need a lot of fluid to build up coverage; the XCP used 750ml for one wash and could have used more.

However, once on the bike, the XCP’s chemicals get to work and it’s easy to see this is as much a degreaser as a cleaner – the liquid beads up and seems to suck dirt and grime into it. It looks like it means business.

Smells like it does, too. Agitation with a brush is more like stirring thick soup, and the jet wash is put to work clearing it off. But a great finish is left behind, with all grime removed, even from spoke corners, and the water beading off. XCP doesn’t suggest drying the bike but does recommend coating it with an XCP finish spray afterwards.



THE FACTS

Volume	1 litre
Price per 100ml	60p
Refills available	✗
Use	No restrictions
Biodegradable	✓
Health warnings	Causes serious eye irritation, may cause allergic reaction, wear gloves and face/eye protection

THE SCORES

Ease of use	■■■■■■■■■
Coverage	■■■■■■■■■
Effectiveness	■■■■■■■■■
Finish	■■■■■■■■■
Total	33/40

1 Oxford Mint Bike Wash

£7.99, 1L

www.oxfordmint.co.uk

The first thing to hit you about Oxford’s Mint bike wash is the smell – it really is minty; a bit like mouthwash (perfume is one of only two ingredients listed on the bottle; the other is less than 5% non-ionic surfactants).

Instructions are straightforward – rinse the bike thoroughly, spray on bike wash, leave for a few minutes, then use a brush to ensure even coverage. The bottle recommends agitating areas with heavy dirt deposits, then rinse with water and dry with a cloth.

A relatively thin viscosity means application of the green liquid is very easy, with little resistance at the trigger and a wide spray from the nozzle and excellent coverage.

The Oxford Mint uses the least amount of liquid to achieve comprehensive coating across the bike. It’s also the foamiest of the cleaners, whipping into a bubbly, snow-like froth and leaving you in no doubt whatsoever about which bits you’ve already applied it to. After agitation, the mixture jet-washes off quickly and easily.

Overall, Oxford’s Mint Bike Wash is very effective at shifting a week’s worth of grime and dirt, leaving wheels and exhaust as new, and leaving no residual water staining or smears after drying.



THE FACTS

Volume	1 litre
Price per 100ml	80p
Refills available	✓
Use	No restrictions
Biodegradable	✓
Health warnings	Causes serious eye irritation

THE SCORES

Ease of use	■■■■■■■■■
Coverage	■■■■■■■■■
Effectiveness	■■■■■■■■■
Finish	■■■■■■■■■
Total	34/40