

JUST ADD DIRT

Product Review

Just-Add-Dirt Cleaner

By David Misek

When it comes to bike maintenance, cleaning is the first step. Check out all the factory bikes, they are spotless before each start. Of course this makes their bikes look great. However, there is function to all this cleaning madness as well. A dirty bike is heavier. Dirt and grime wear out every moving part. Repairs made to a dirty machine can easily result in contamination which further decreases the life of the parts. Washing is certainly not as fun as riding, but there is definitely satisfaction in having a clean machine. I use my cleaning time to take a closer look at my bikes to see what maintenance is needed before the next outing.



I do have a few recommendations on using Just Add Dirt Cleaner. It is biodegradable, which means that it won't pollute soil or water, which is great. It is caustic, though. Wearing gloves is a good idea. Do not leave concentrated cleaner on bare metals for an extended period of time. As soon as the bike dries, I suggest lubricating your drive chain. I also lubricate my clutch and throttle cables. And I use a silicone based product to put shine into my fenders. The JAD cleaner pulls oils so thoroughly that it seems to make plastics look somewhat dry, and seems to emphasize scratches. Using silicone plastic shine covers the scratches nicely, gives a deep wet appearance, and repels mud and water during the next ride.

With that in mind, I have to say that Just Add Dirt Cleaner is the best stuff I've ever used. No amount of scrubbing with any other chemical, cleaner, or degreaser in my garage got my machine clean the way Just Add Dirt Cleaner does. Plus, many of the products I was using were specific to certain locations on the bike. The JAD cleaner works equally as well on wheels, motor, frame, controls, and plastics. The instructions on the bottle suggest hosing the bike to get the big clods knocked off, spraying down the bike with cleaner, then doing a final rinse. The mud here in Illinois has a lot of sticky clay. Following those directions gets my bikes about 90% clean. So, I have modified my cleaning process to utilize a couple of soft bristle brushes. I use one hand-sized brush which lets me cover lots of parts quickly, and one small brush that looks like an overgrown toothbrush for the small areas I can't reach with the bigger brush. This technique conserves the cleaner, and works even if I dilute the JAD cleaner with water, and removes even the most stubborn mud and oil residue.

Dirt Worthy			91
	Compliments:	Complaints:	Score
Function	Speeds cleaning time, removes stubborn grease and dirt. Regular use seems to repel grime from clinging to the bike. Also works in laundry.	Must finish cleaning job when you start. Let it sit full strength and it promotes rust on steel and etches bare aluminum.	37/40
Longevity	Careful spraying or diluting of cleaning solution makes a bottle last a long time.	Careful spraying is not as easy as it sounds.	14/15
Chemical:	Fully biodegradable, repeated washings on same patch of grass does no harm at all.	Not safe to drink, but what cleaner is? Draws oils out of bare skin.	19/20
Packaging	Tough bottle, black color keeps sunlight from deteriorating cleaner.	Gallon size needs transfer to spray bottle.	8/10
Price:	Bulk quantity undercuts price/ounce compared to competing cleaners	Available only from JAD	13/15

Available through the Dirt Store here at www.just-add-dirt.com