

THINGS A BIT FUZZY?

If those sheep coming toward you look a bit fuzzy, this may not necessarily mean that they need a shear – or even that you need an eye appointment. You may just have a dirty helmet visor. Nine visor cleaners offer a remedy.

Newspaper. Just take some wet newspaper. Place it over your visor long enough to give the mosquitoes – or whatever else was spoiling your view of the sheep – a good soaking without letting the paper dry out too much. And with a bit of luck, you'll remember the MOTORRAD issue

with the latest hand sanitizer test afterwards. Printer's ink and all that, you know.

A little tip: You'll find what you're looking for in MOTORRAD 3/2020. Alternatively, you can use a much more user-friendly spray bottle with glass cleaner – available for less than one euro at the relevant

discount store if you're lucky. Take one or two pieces of kitchen roll, give it all a wipe, and job done! Your sheep have lost their fuzz. And you can easily order a replacement for your visor online next spring if it has been damaged for some inexplicable reason during the winter break.

Having said that, visor cleaning formulas are not necessarily rocket science. The main ingredient is of course water (no surprise there), plus a few perky surfactants, some fragrances, and one or two other goodies from the chemistry set. Not much else is needed. But that's the way it is with chemical formulas: a little too much or too little of one thing or another, and it doesn't work right any more. Developing detergents has a lot to do with conflicts of interest. But staying on the topic of visor cleaners: it would be easy to pack loads of surfactants into the bottle, with a superior cleaning performance the most likely result. But there would be a large penalty to pay in terms of user-friendliness, as dissolving dirt is one thing, but making it as easy as possible to pick up and polish away is something else altogether. Dissertations could be written on the subject of cleaner bottle spray heads alone, with terms such as 'dosability', 'application rate' and 'spray pattern' featuring prominently. Trivialities? No necessarily, because if half the cleaner ends up on your trousers and the bottle is empty surprisingly quickly, the bottom line is that it costs money.

What's even more annoying is when a formula with unsuitable ingredients causes the visor and/or helmet material to take a hit too. Polycarbonate and ABS plastic are rather sensitive creatures and don't like it at all if any aggressive substances are left on them for any length of time. It's not the visor surface, which is normally wiped clean, that is at risk, but the hidden corners and openings, for example Pinlock inserts and detents. Stress cracks and even fractures can be the result of these types of nasty attacks on the material. This product test proved once again that this is not only a theoretical risk, as three of the nine contenders caused polycarbonate fractures within 24 hours, with one of them only needing six and a half hours to break through. And if that wasn't enough, one of the culprits also had crack at the ABS, which is actually much less sensitive.

Which brings us back to the beginning of this story and to a key finding: newspaper is harmless. Glass cleaner, on the other hand, tends not to be – and nor is washing-up liquid, if it runs down somewhere and stays there for a long time.



Author: Klaus Herder
klaus@motorradonline.de

Photos: Dmitry Pichugin – stock.adobe.
com mps-Fotostudio, Klaus Herder

To get to the point: cleaning your visor can be very easy and, above all, incredibly cheap. In principle, all you need is water, a little more time and something absorbent to restore a clear view. And of course we are infinitely grateful for readers' letters with DIY tips that have been kicking around since about 1923. On the other hand, we hear that there are actual riders who want to clean their €89.95 high-grade visor as quickly, conveniently and even as gently as possible and are prepared to spend a little more money on it. Pure decadence and affluent neglect, we get it. But the market for products like these exists, and the issue of material compatibility in particular means that clever tips involving dishwashing detergent, the glass cleaner mentioned above, or even universal thinner might not always be appropriate.



AS Helm- & Visierreiniger

Supplier:

AS-Chemie,
32457 Porta Westfalica,
Tel. +49 (0)5731 869 7916,
No website specified

Price:

€4.95 (purchased online via
Amazon, as of May 2021),
Price per liter (calculated) €9.90

Filling quantity:

500 ml (spray bottle)

Application:

Labeling not complete,
no information on ingredients;
good user instructions; good
ergonomics; good spray pattern,
hardly any fogging, may run off
a little too quickly;
Manufacturing quality 12 out
of 15 points, Handling 12 out
of 15 points

Cleaning:

Overall satisfactory to good,
20 out of 35 points (rounded up);
Insect dirt 7.5 points (max. 15),
road dirt 4.5 points (max. 10),
oil/soot-based dirt 7.5 points
(max. 10)

Material compatibility:

Polycarbonate: no problem found,
15 out of 15 points;
ABS plastic: no problem found,
10 out of 10 points;
pH value 2.7

Summary: Strong performance
for a gratifyingly small amount of
money. The balancing act between
cleaning performance and material
compatibility works well. And it
also makes a decent impression in
terms of application. Second place
and Purchase Tip!

MOTORRAD
Verdict: Good



Bike Care Helm- und Visier- reiniger

Supplier:

Polo, 41363 Jüchen,
Tel. +49 (0)203 844 0200,
www.polo-motorrad.com

Price:

€6.99 (purchased online from Polo,
as of May 2021),
Price per liter (calculated) €69.90

Filling quantity:

100 ml (spray bottle)

Application:

Labeling and information on
ingredients okay; good user
instructions; good ergonomics;
good spray pattern, no fogging,
may run off a little too quickly;
Manufacturing quality 12 out
of 15 points, Handling 14 out
of 15 points

Cleaning:

Overall satisfactory,
18 out of 35 points (rounded up);
Insect dirt 6 points (max. 15),
road dirt 4 points (max. 10),
oil/soot-based dirt 7.5 points
(max. 10)

Material compatibility:

Polycarbonate: no problem found,
15 out of 15 points;
ABS plastic: no problem found,
10 out of 10 points; pH value 8.6

Summary: If you already shop at
Polo, there's no harm in picking up
the store-brand visor cleaner.
You can't really go wrong with it,
although the price per liter is
verging on the steep side.

MOTORRAD
Verdict: **Good**



GS27 Moto Visier- und Helmreiniger

Supplier:

GS27, 37304 Joué-lès-Tours
(France), Tel. +33 (0)247 73 7777,
www.gs27.com

Price:

€9.95 (purchased online via
Amazon, as of May 2021),
Price per liter (calculated) €39.80

Filling quantity:

250 ml (aerosol can)

Application:

Labeling and information on
ingredients okay; satisfactory user
instructions; heavy fogging, foam
adheres well but collapses quickly;
Manufacturing quality 12 out
of 15 points, Handling 11 out
of 15 points

Cleaning:

Overall satisfactory,
18 out of 35 points (rounded up);
Insect dirt 5.5 points (max. 15),
road dirt 5 points (max. 10),
oil/soot-based dirt 7 points
(max. 10)

Material compatibility:

Polycarbonate: broken,
0 out of 15 points;
ABS plastic: no problem found,
10 out of 10 points; pH value 9.5

Summary: A classic online product.
And possibly one that you can do
without, given that there are no
outstanding performances in any
of the categories. What's worse,
unfortunately, is that the GS27
product tested is not completely
safe to use on polycarbonate.

MOTORRAD
Verdict: **Adequate**



Liqui Moly Motorbike Visier- Reiniger

Supplier:

Liqui Moly, 89081 Ulm,
Tel. +49 (0)7311 4200,
www.liqui-moly.de

Price:

€8.99 (purchased online from Polo,
as of May 2021),
Price per liter (calculated) €89.90

Filling quantity:

100 ml (spray bottle)

Application:

Labeling and information on
ingredients okay; good user
instructions; good ergonomics;
good spray pattern, hardly any
fogging, may run off a little too
quickly;
Manufacturing quality 12 out
of 15 points, Handling 14 out
of 15 points

Cleaning:

Overall good to very good,
23 out of 35 points (rounded up);
Insect dirt 6 points (max. 15),
road dirt 6.5 points (max. 10),
oil/soot-based dirt 10 points
(max. 10)

Material compatibility:

Polycarbonate: no problem found,
15 out of 15 points;
ABS plastic: no problem found,
10 out of 10 points; pH value 7.3

Summary: Full marks for removing
hardcore dirt; no problems
whatsoever in terms of material
compatibility, and the Ulm-based
chemical professionals also scored
well when it came to application.
Result: the clear winner!

MOTORRAD
Verdict: **Good**



Motul MC Care M1 Helmet & Visor Clean

Supplier:

Motul Deutschland, 50829 Cologne,
Tel. +49 (0)221 670 030,
www.motul.de

Price:

€9.99 (purchased online
from Louis, as of May 2021),
Price per liter (calculated) €39.96

Filling quantity:

250 ml (spray bottle)

Application:

Labeling and information on
ingredients okay; good user
instructions; good ergonomics;
good spray pattern, heavy fogging,
low application rate; somewhat
unpleasant odor;
Manufacturing quality 12 out
of 15 points, Handling 11 out
of 15 points

Cleaning:

Overall satisfactory,
17 out of 35 points;
Insect dirt 7.5 points (max. 15),
road dirt 4 points (max. 10),
oil/soot-based dirt 5.5 points (max.
10)

Material compatibility:

Polycarbonate: no problem found,
15 out of 15 points;
ABS plastic: no problem found,
10 out of 10 points; pH value 7.7

Summary: As an impulse buy, this
is a decent product that fulfills its
purpose. Not really convincing in
any category, but still within the
price range and not a risk to the
helmet or visor. The reward? Edges
a "good".

MOTORRAD
Verdict: **Good**



Muc-Off Visor Lens & Goggle Cleaner

Supplier:

Muc-Off,
BH12 1DW Poole/Dorset (United Kingdom), Tel. +44 (0)1202 307790,
www.muc-off.com

Price:

€14.90 (purchased online from Louis, as of May 2021),
Price per liter (calculated) €59.60

Filling quantity:

250 ml (spray bottle)

Application:

Labeling and information on ingredients okay; good user instructions; good ergonomics; good spray pattern, wide spray jet, good dosage, some fogging; Manufacturing quality 12 out of 15 points, Handling 14 out of 15 points

Cleaning:

Overall satisfactory to good, 20 out of 35 points (rounded up); Insect dirt 5.5 points (max. 15), road dirt 4.5 points (max. 10), oil/soot-based dirt 9.5 points (max. 10)

Material compatibility:

Polycarbonate: broken, 0 out of 15 points;
ABS plastic: strong stress crack, 4 out of 10 points; pH value 10.3

Summary: Cleans properly and doesn't show any weaknesses during application. Could be a good fit. If only there wasn't the matter of the polycarbonate. And to make matters worse: ABS can also sustain damage under certain circumstances.



Procycle Helm- und Visier- Reiniger

Supplier:

Louis, 21035 Hamburg,
Tel. +49 (0)40 7341 9360,
www.louis.de

Price:

€4.99 (purchased online from Louis, as of May 2021),
Price per liter (calculated) €19.96

Filling quantity:

250 ml (spray bottle)

Application:

Labeling and information on ingredients okay; good user instructions; good ergonomics; good spray pattern, wide spray jet, good dosage, some fogging; Manufacturing quality 12 out of 15 points, Handling 14 out of 15 points

Cleaning:

Overall still satisfactory, 16 out of 35 points;
Insect dirt 4 points (max. 15), road dirt 3 points (max. 10), oil/soot-based dirt 9 points (max. 10)

Material compatibility:

Polycarbonate: no problem found, 15 out of 15 points;
ABS plastic: no problem found, 10 out of 10 points; pH value 8.3

Summary: The second cheapest product in the test is no high-flyer in terms of cleaning performance, but diligently collecting points in all categories pays off for the Louis store brand product on balance. Third place is the reward.



S100 Visier- und Helm- reiniger

Supplier:

Dr. O. K. Wack Chemie,
85053 Ingolstadt,
Tel. +49 (0)841 6350,
www.wackchem.com

Price:

€19.99 (purchased online from Louis, as of May 2021),
Price per liter (calculated) €39.98

Filling quantity:

500 ml (spray bottle,
special "Louis edition" size)

Application:

Labeling and information on ingredients okay; good user instructions; very good ergonomics; very good spray pattern, perfect spray head, very good dosage, minimal fogging; Manufacturing quality 14 out of 15 points, Handling 15 out of 15 points

Cleaning:

Overall satisfactory, 13 out of 35 points;
Insect dirt 6 points (max. 15), road dirt 2 points (max. 10), oil/soot-based dirt 5 points (max. 10)

Material compatibility:

Polycarbonate: no problem found, 15 out of 15 points; ABS plastic: no problem found, 10 out of 10 points; pH value 8.5

Summary: Dr. Wackler seems to have spent an eternity working very successfully toward almost perfect user-friendliness. Material compatibility? It doesn't get any better than this. And the whole cleaning performance thing? Well yes, it could get better than this.



Weicon Visier-Reiniger

Supplier:

Weicon, 48157 Münster,
Tel. +49 (0)251 93220,
www.weicon.de

Price:

€8.67 (purchased online via Amazon, as of May 2021),
Price per liter (calculated) €43.35

Filling quantity:

200 ml (aerosol can)

Application:

Labeling and information on ingredients okay; good user instructions; foams excessively, foam gets into all the crevices, wiping down is a bit more time-consuming; Manufacturing quality 9 out of 15 points, Handling 12 out of 15 points

Cleaning:

Overall still satisfactory, 17 out of 35 points;
Insect dirt 4 points (max. 15), road dirt 4 points (max. 10), oil/soot-based dirt 9 points (max. 10)

Material compatibility:

Polycarbonate: broken, 0 out of 15 points;
ABS plastic: no problem found, 10 out of 10 points; pH value 9.6

Summary: Should we keep the brand in mind as a potential top player in the visor cleaner league? Probably not, because there is nothing really outstanding in the can, the application can be annoying, and the polycarbonate is cracked.

MOTORRAD

Verdict: Adequate

MOTORRAD

Verdict: Good

MOTORRAD

Verdict: Good

MOTORRAD

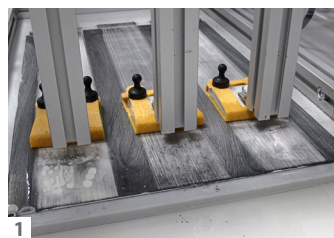
Verdict: Adequate

MOTORRAD's testing methods

Total wipeout? Not when the legendary Kärcher wiping test machine is involved. And the team in white coats headed by BMW driver Frank Ritscher did a great job again.

Of course, in the editor's office, you can easily spray a few visors with some sort of dirt on them and see what happens. But is that a serious product test? Hardly. To achieve reproducible results, you need defined test procedures. For many years now, MOTORRAD's favorite address for chemical testing matters has been the research and development laboratory of Alfred Kärcher SE & Co. KG in Winnenden with its laboratory manager Frank Ritscher (frequent BMW R 1200 GS rider). MOTORRAD purchased all the test samples in May 2021 over the internet due to the coronavirus situation. For this reason, the prices mentioned are not always the RRP, but the prices actually paid. The first laboratory test at the Swabian cleaning equipment professionals: the material compatibility test: the material compatibility test, in which the cleaners were required to cause as little damage as possible to pre-stressed polycarbonate and ABS plastic strips within 24 hours. This was followed by a visit to the Kärcher wiping test

machine for all cleaners, where a piece of painted sheet steel had to be cleaned to the best of their ability in three dirt categories. For road dirt, two wiping cycles were carried out, and for hardcore dirt (oil/soot), one. The cleaning performance was then determined in a before/after comparison at five measurement points each using a whiteness meter. For insect dirt, the number of wipes (maximum 10) required to remove each of the three test points (1 x dry, 2 x soaked) was counted. For all the test theory, however, real life was not neglected – cue the practical test, where further questions had to be answered: How clear are the user instructions? How easy is it to apply the visor cleaner in the correct dosage? How long should it be left on, and how easy is it to polish off afterwards? How much cleaner is needed to ensure a clear view again? What is the price/performance ratio like? After two long days of testing in Winnenden, all our questions were reliably answered.



Cleaning performance test in the Kärcher wiping test machine (Fig. 1); Measuring cleaning performance using the whiteness meter (2); Polycarbonate plastic strip after 24-hour material compatibility test (3); Serious practical test (4); Slightly less serious final photo with Frank Ritscher and employee Kathrin Spöcker (5)

MOTORRAD final ranking

	Application	Cleaning	Material compatibility	Price/performance ratio	Total	MOTORRAD verdict*	Price per liter (€)
Maximum score	30	35	25	10	100		
Liqui Moly Motorbike Visier-Reiniger	26	23	25	7	81	Good	89.90
AS Helm- & Visierreiniger	24	20	25	10	79	Good	9.90
Procycle Helm- und Visier-Reiniger	26	16	25	7	74	Good	19.96
Bike Care Helm- und Visierreiniger	26	18	25	4	73	Good	69.90
S100 Visier- und Helmreiniger	29	13	25	5	72	Good	39.98
Motul MC Care M1 Helmet & Visor Clean	23	17	25	6	71	Good	39.96
GS27 Moto Visier- und Helmreiniger	23	18	10	3	54	Adequate	39.80
Muc-Off Visor Lens & Goggle Cleaner	26	20	4	1	51	Adequate	59.60
Weicon Visier-Reiniger	21	17	10	2	50	Adequate	43.35

The most expensive product (extrapolated to the price per liter) is the test winner. The visor cleaner that is by far the cheapest comes in second – can there be a more appealing ranking? However, the next four places are also taken by products that do a consistently good job (albeit with room for improvement when it comes to cleaning performance) and, above all, operate on the safe side in terms of material compatibility. The three cleaners at the bottom have a lot of catching up to do. An "adequate" rating is the absolute upper limit if polycarbonate can get broken under certain circumstances.

*100 to 85 points = very good; 84 to 70 points = good; 69 to 55 points = satisfactory; 54 to 40 points = adequate; 39 to 0 points = poor

