It started out small then grew, my husband might say, when really it’s the other way around. “For such a little girl, she sure packs around a lot of stuff!” and this once was true.

If you’re like me, you have, at times, found packing for a motorcycle trip to be challenging. It’s almost like you’re given a bag the size of a shoe box and told to pack for a week. Easy for guys to say--my husband sports an increasingly thinning military cut, so no tools or products required. His mess kit consists of a razor and deodorant. He’s a shower and go kind of guy (and I like that about him) but it is hard for him to grasp my need for an electric styling brush and a full line of cosmetics.

I’m no expert, by any stretch of the imagination, but I have learned a thing or two over the 13 or so years we’ve traveled by bike and thought I’d pass some along.

First, as much as possible, share! Toothpaste (but not toothbrush--eewwww! If you do use an electric toothbrush the base can be shared and the heads changed out.) saline solution if you both wear contact lenses, shampoos, soaps, etc. if you expect to not just use the hotel’s. You are on vacation, so why not take a break from some of the usual regimen?

Of course, you will want to use travel-sized product and this might mean purchasing the FFA’s regulation size bottles and jars to transfer lotions, etc. to. Also, when you are next at your hairdresser’s, ask for travel-sized styling gel or mousse, or when you next make a purchase at a beauty supply, ask for samples of what you need.

I like products that do double duty. For instance, if you are traveling for just a few days, rather than packing eye cream, neck cream, night cream etc. can you make do with one moisturizer? For maximum protection while on the bike, I like Neutrogena's [Healthy Defense® Daily Moisturizer with Sunscreen Broad Spectrum SPF 50](http://www.neutrogena.com/product/healthy+defense-+daily+moisturizer+with+sunscreen+broad+spectrum+spf+50.do?sortby=ourPicks) and can make do with the same at night. Maybe if you’re game, you’ll use a tinted moisturizer and leave your usual foundation at home.

As for small products, I’ve found that I can easily slice a new [Basis](https://www.walgreens.com/store/c/basis-sensitive-skin-bar/ID=prod10784-product) sensitive skin bar in to a more manageable size to take with me. I have at times made do with an alternate for the sake of saving space, but some things you just have to have. For me my dermatologist-recommended soap is one of those things!

I have come to find packing small like this to be very liberating. I am, after all, on a vacation not in a beauty contest. I find it freeing to leave some of the usual entrapments at home. I wear only a wedding band because of the convenience when putting riding gloves on and off several times a day. I generally make do with a basic earring if anything. If you must, though, take jewelry along, I have found that chains such as necklaces can be safely transported in a tissue rolled up and this will save you the space a jewelry bag would take up!

Let’s see, what else about my cosmetic bag? I do like to have an extra pair of contact lenses, or two, in case a bug bursts on my face shield (more on that later!) For some such emergency items, a separate bag elsewhere in your packing may work better. I like to carry a couple of my migraine pills in my hip bag, but a prescription shot in my luggage should the need arise. Some items like this may not need to go in with you each night where you stay. Do check, though, to be sure these won’t be effected by being exposed to a range of temperatures if left on the bike.

Speaking of prescriptions, We have found that a locking medication organizer is best for obvious reasons. And for the same reason, I like to put the organizer, nevertheless, in a draw string bag or ziplock bag and pack it in a dry location rather than in my cosmetic bag. It would be a bummer to have to find a pharmacy and wait on a new refill called in from home should your much-needed RX get doused!

What else is it that makes you feel great about being away from home? For me, one thing is a travel pack of [antibacterial moist wipes](https://www.walgreens.com/search/results.jsp?Ntt=antibacterial+moist+wipes). I like the assurance of a clean toilet seat, so I use a wipe wherever we stay. It is also nice to have them on hand for cleanups on the road.

I have found that it’s imperative to have a nail file along and my own razor, even though his will do! Of course, if you are still pre-menopausal you will want to have some feminine products just in case, but just a few unless you are expecting company of this sort. If you are post-menopausal, be optimistic and bring along some [personal lubricant](https://www.walgreens.com/search/results.jsp?No=24&Ntt=personal+lubricant) (or something more interesting along these lines!) For sure, plan to be **romantic.** You can thank me later!

It might be worth looking at a new travel bag that fits well with your motorcycle side bags, but meets your storage needs. I have one fatter bag that takes less width and one that is thinner but spans the width of the hard case. Your partner might have an opinion (ha!) Also, if you can, having a travel set of most everything will save you forgetting some crucial item. I often set aside the tail end of a product, like a squeeze tube of lotion, toothpaste, etc. and pack this instead of taking a full new one. I don’t own a second blush, mascara, eye liner that sort of thing but pack these as I apply them the morning of departure. That way I’m sure to pack all I’ll need.