

**Getting Most Of Your ATV – A Guide On How To Maximize And Enjoy Your ATV**

# Getting Most Of Your ATV

**A Guide On How To Maximize And Enjoy Your ATV**



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## Getting Most Of Your ATV – A Guide On How To Maximize And Enjoy Your ATV

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- ATVs:** Lists 'GIO Rebel T3 125cc ATV', 'GIO Rebel T1 110cc ATV Semi Auto', and 'GIO Lambo ATV 150cc'.
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- UTVs:** Lists 'GIO Work Horse 800cc UTV 4x4', 'GIO Ranger 300cc UTV', and 'GIO Youth 150cc R/V'. A 'more' link is provided.
- Auctions:** Three featured items are shown:
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  - Off Road ATV Dirt Bike Gloves:** MSRP: C\$ 49.95, Auction price: C\$ 6.00, bid by cjcore, 00:14:16.
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- TOP GIO ACCESSORIES:** Includes 'GIO Team Wear Custom PIT Jacket Canada' (MSRP: C\$ 45.95, Sale: C\$ 23.96) and 'ATV Storage Cases Canada' (MSRP: C\$ 999.95, Sale: C\$ 79.95).

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Well Christmas was just around the corner and then it hit me. Why like I I make a paddle?



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## **ATV Helmets: Protection For Young Riders**

When you are educating your kids about ATVs the first thing that you must teach your children is safety. Tell them the importance of ATV helmets because it can even save life in some dangerous situations. Your kids will of course argue that they do not need ATV helmets, as they will promise to be very careful. But it is your duty to explain to them that precautions are necessary and very useful. Also most of the states have a rule that it is a must to be wearing ATV helmets.

You have to make sure that your kids fully understand that ATV helmets can actually save life. You have to convince them that although they might be extremely careful while riding the bike, still every day is not a lucky day. There might be a chance that there is a misjudgment on the part of the other person or just a sheer slip or a skid. Thus put in to heads of your kids that ATV helmets are a must so that they are safe and sound.

Don't be a preacher, practice what you preach. If you are yourself an ATV enthusiast, then make sure that you yourself always wear a helmet while using it. Make sure that your kids never ever see you riding without your helmet on. This will create a good example in front of your kids.

One common excuse that youths give for not wearing an ATV helmet, is the fact that it makes their hair look flat you will constantly hear young ones say that they look good on an ATV helmet, but they look unimpressive once they have taken it off. Yes it is true, but just make them realize that they would not be able to impress any one if any thing were to happen to them either.

One thing that you can do is to let the children choose their ATV helmets themselves. This way chances are less that they will find the helmet not cool. There are also high chances that they will wear it, with or without flat hair.

It is important to choose the right helmet. As helmet is the single most important thing that can save your life. It is important that your kids realize that wearing a helmet is a wise thing to do and not something that makes them look not cool. Once they realize this fact even you can be at peace when your kids are out riding.

## **ATV Helmets: The Thor Brand**

The most important thing in riding is safety. Most of the times, accidents may happen despite you being very careful, chances are that accidents may happen because of the other party's fault or a misjudgment. So in order to stay protected, it is important that you protect the most important part of your body that is your head. The right way to protect your head while ATV riding is, by wearing a helmet. Now the question arises, which helmet to go for. Well, there are a lot of helmets that you can choose from. One of them is Thor. Thor has been in the business of producing helmets, since ages. They are of top notch quality and they completely understand the needs of an ATV rider.

As we have already mentioned. Thor is the oldest in the business, and as a result, it knows the business in and out. They continuously get feedback from the satisfied and the dissatisfied customers. The best thing of Thor is that they realize that youth these days are very conscious of how they look, as a result the cameras of Thor are both safe and trendy . They come in a variety of design and colors and they satisfy the needs of all types of people, basic requirement of safety, along with providing the safety.

Thor fans all over know that Thor cares for them. Thor understands their customers and comes up with products that are well suited for them. In case you are low on budget, then still you can choose from a large array of low priced products. These products are not pricey, but are still safe. If you have a lot of money to dispose, then you can choose from an even larger variety of helmets.

Now before you finalize your purchase, make sure that the helmet fits nicely on your face. It should frame your face and not squeeze it or be uncomfortable. It is also advisable that you take feedback from the people who have already tried on Thor helmets, this way you can make a better and informed decision.

You can check out all the trendy and the newest Thor helmet at the Raceway ATV. Raceway ATV is the world's leading online store. It has all the accessories that you will need. So go on do not wait and get yourself a new safe and cool helmet.

## **ATV Helmets: Buying The Perfect Helmet**

In most of the states in the US, you are required to wear an ATVC helmet. But despite this norm, there are a lot of people who do not know how to differentiate between a good and a bad ATV helmet. Most of the people believe that price and brand are the only two factors that are an indicator of how safe the helmet is. While these two factors may be important but these two are not the only indicators that determine the safety of a helmet.

There are different types of helmets available for different uses. The helmets for motorbikes are almost technically same as that of other helmets, but still it is preferred that you buy a helmet that is meant specifically for ATV users or off road riding.

ATV helmets have certain features that are different from the regular helmets. An ATV helmet covers most part of the face and it also has a material under the chin to provide safety. Along with that ATV helmets provide the maximum ventilation.

The amount of padding on the helmet determines how comfortable it will be to wear it. Some people have a wrong notion that the amount of padding on the helmet determines the safety of the helmet. But this sadly is not true. The padding does not help in any resistance during a crash, but a well padded helmet means that it does not itch or scratch against your ear and chin area.

When ever you are buying an ATV helmet, it is important that you check on the certification. Never buy a helmet that does not have a DOT Snell certification. It might cost you a bit more but to ensure your safety, it is important that you buy a helmet that is DOT Snell certified.

When you buy a pair of jeans what do you do? Well don't you try it on to check if it fits you well? You do check if you are comfortable in that pair of jeans. Same is the case when you are buying an ATV helmet. Make sure that it fits you well. Also most importantly check that you are comfortable wearing that. Never buy an uncomfortable helmet as you will never wear it again when you are riding. Also move around your head on wearing the helmet and check if it still stays in position. Once you are satisfied of all these things then you can go ahead and buy the helmet.

## **ATV Helmets: How Good Is Yours?**

Nowadays there are absolutely conflicting views on helmets. Some are of the belief that helmets save lives, but there are others who are of the opinion that helmets create neck injuries and also aggravate the condition of the rider in case of an accident. The question here arises, that what you should believe to be true.

This indecision can be wiped off only with the help of facts that we have gathered. Helmets are made to protect our head. And there is no undermining the importance of our head. It contains our sense organs and any injury can lead us to be blind, deaf, mute or physically deformed. Most importantly, our head contains our brain which controls all the involuntary functions of the body such as the blinking of eyelids, beating of the heart and even breathing. In order to be sure that the helmet that we choose is of a good quality and will be able to protect us in times of collision and accidents, it is important to choose a helmet not on the basis of price and brand but on the basis of a real test

Helmets must pass a very dogmatic test, it involves a real collision. After this, augmentation in its construction can be done. The outer shell of the helmet should be such that it does not get scraped or easily penetrated. Also it must provide enough support so that it can even out the feet of collision and save the brain from any damage.

Opposite to the general belief that a pricey helmet is a safer one, the actual truth is that price has no relation to the safety provided by a helmet. It is important to keep in mind that price is not a standard that can be used to measure the effectiveness of a helmet. Price does not speak anything. On the other hand ratings can be said to be a standard. If the helmet has passed the most difficult of tests then it is bound to have a good customer rating. But while doing it don't forget to put on your helmet, as safety comes first

Helmet is meant for safety first, so while buying a helmet what you should look at is its features and not its price and brand. So the next time the weather is nice and the sun is shining and inviting, do not sit back, take out your motorcycle from the garage and go out in the open.

## **ATV Helmets: For Paragliding**

Helmets are designed to take in various kinds of shocks. Moreover, helmets are designed differently based on what you would be doing while wearing that helmet. Therefore, helmets for different kinds of sports are different because each of them has their own head risk regions taken care of.

Hence, paragliding helmets are very special. They are designed specifically to help protect your skull according to which part would most be under threat. It is just like helmets for any other air sport. The construction is given special care so that the impact of a shock gets absorbed by the helmet instead of reaching your skull and cracking it open.

Helmets for paragliding, like all helmets, have a twin shell construction. First there is the outer shell which is tough and non-penetrable in case the head should bang against a sharp object. It essentially protects the head from getting poked with the sharp object by holding it out. The toughness comes from the materials which are used to make it. This is generally thermoplastic or any other composite fiber such as Kevlar, which is commonly used. Carbon fiber is used in the more expensive helmets. In addition to the toughness it is not very heavy, so it makes for a light helmet that does not weigh your head down.

The inner shell is crushable. This is because in case the impact is very hard for the outer shell to bear, it will lead to the crushing of the inner crushable shell. By doing so, the impact will be absorbed by that shell instead of reaching your skull. The polystyrene used to construct this shell absorbs shock effectively.

A full faced helmet, though more expensive, is advisable for paragliding. It protects your lower face, especially your mouth and chin. If the helmet is of good quality it will not cause much disturbance to your field of vision. That is to say it will help you see clearly even with the helmet on. Some helmets have cut outs for ears to enable pilots to hear the air and judge the speed and flow of the air. This cut also enables free circulation of air inside the helmet so that you don't feel nauseated and suffocated.

All these are the standard requirements for a good paragliding helmet as per the code CEN EN966 of the European paragliding regulations.



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Finally, make sure to select the right size. Ill fitted helmets are as good as no helmets at all. There are a variety of colors to choose from as well. Replace helmets on time.

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### **ATV for Beginners**

#### **An Introduction to ATVs**

Since the first ATV was introduced a few decades ago, the ATV has been extremely popular. An ATV is very exciting to ride, and the sense of freedom and exhilaration a rider feels is a major draw for repeat riders. ATVs are a sport that the entire family can enjoy. But more people are hurt every year riding ATVs than nearly any other recreational activity. If you are interested in taking part in this exciting activity, there are a few things you should know before you get started.

#### **Don't Go it Alone**

The first thing you should do is hit the back trails along with someone who knows what they are doing. This could be a friend, an ATV safety instructor, or a relative that has been riding for a while. the important thing is that you actually get to ride an ATV so you can see if you really want to get one and to get a feel for the machine.

#### **Purchasing your first ATV**

Once you are decided, it is time to go pick your vehicle. There are guidelines of ages and weights VS the class of ATVs that are recommended for operation. Use common sense here, don't go buy your 85 pound son the biggest monster of an ATV you can get a hold of.

It is recommended that your first ATV be a used one. As a beginner, there will most likely be damage done to your first ATV while you learn the ins and outs, and learning the best maintenance practices are best done on an older ATV. Even if you are very careful, you still may wish to stick with an older machine until you are familiar enough with ATVs in general to decide what new machines fit you best. Everyone you talk to will have a different opinion, and you don't want to buy an expensive ATV only to find out that "that model" is better, according to

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someone else. It can be very easy to get caught up in the "grass is greener" syndrome, so stick with a cheaper older ATV until you are SURE which new ATV you want is always a good idea.

### **Learning the Ropes**

After you purchase your first ATV, it is HIGHLY recommended that you take an ATV safety and instruction course. These courses are usually between 2 and 4 weeks, broken up into 2-3 hour sessions once a week. Try and get into a course where the instructor will actually take you out onto the trails at some point. A sport as active as ATVs can't be taught entirely in a classroom.

Secondly, you should read the owner's manual. There is a ton of useful information, procedures, and explanations of parts and terminology in the manual. If you bought a used ATV, and it didn't come with an owner's manual, you can usually get one from an ATV dealer that carries your make of ATV. Just get the serial number off your ATV, and the dealer should be able to get the owner's manual for you.

Last, but not least, get out there and ride! There is truly no other way to learn how (and how not) to drive an ATV. Make sure you get permission from the property owner if you will be riding on private property. Be careful, especially at first. Start off slowly, and ride safely. Always ride with more experienced people, but in the beginning, don't try to emulate the "fancier" moves they may be capable of. Learn how to ride safely first! And never ever ride alone. This cannot be stressed enough. Someday, you WILL roll your ATV. And unless you are a bodybuilder, you will probably need help getting your ATV upright again. This goes double if you get injured.

### **Rules to Play By**

By following these simple guidelines, you will be out and having a blast with this exciting sport in no time. As with most things in life, you cannot jump in and expect to be an expert. Always ride with someone more experienced than you, take the time to complete the safety courses, and read your manual. Get out there as often as you feel like and tear up those trails! Practicing driving your ATV IS the fun of driving an ATV. Following these rules will help insure that you enjoy many years of enjoyment and fun on your ATV.

## **ATVs And Land Usage**

Ever since they were first introduced, ATVs have been an extremely popular form of recreation. There is nothing quite like the exhilarating feeling you get when zooming through the woods on a narrow back trail. The original 3 wheeled ATV was quite unstable and unsafe, but that didn't dampen people's enthusiasm one bit. The four wheeler introduced later is much more stable and safe, but still isn't without its risks. Other concerns have been raised over the legal driving age for ATVs, with some states setting it as other vehicles, and others setting no limits at all. But probably the single biggest point of contention that has arisen is over land-usage rights and exactly where and when ATVs are permitted. This issue is constantly coming up, since many riders are not at all responsible about when and where they ride, often disregarding existing laws in the process.

Most states have laws restricting the use of ATVs to existing trails. But people always seem to feel the need to leave the trail and start going cross-country. This often take them onto private property in complete disregard of trespassing laws. Most landowners don't want ATVs ripping through their property, tearing up the ground and making a lot of noise. This is a major point of contention for environmentalists as well, since the deep treads of these vehicles can dig channels and lead to excessive drainage in swampy areas, destroying the natural habitat.

Even in less sensitive areas, the damage caused by irresponsible ATV operation can be significant, especially if an area proves to be particularly popular. ATV riders often point the finger at overdevelopment of housing and industrial areas as causing more damage than they do; while this is a (major) factor, the irresponsible ATV rider is still contributing to the overall degradation of these habitats. In colder climates, summer usage of snowmobile trails by ATVs can destroy the careful grooming needed for a nice smooth snow surface for winter use, churning up rocks and digging holes that can damage snowmobiles if they hit them.

ATV advocacy groups have stepped in to try and help address these concerns. Some groups purchase land that is then set aside as an ATV riding zone. They will usually build and maintain

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trails specifically for ATVs, and obtain permission from private property owners if these trails cross their land. These groups will usually run educational programs for ATV riders to try and teach them responsible riding techniques.

With ATV use on the rise, these issues are all ones that need to be addressed, and sooner rather than later. Otherwise, the irresponsible riders may wind up ruining this exciting activity for everyone! Already states are cracking down with harsher laws and stiffer penalties for irresponsible use of ATVs, at the same time limiting the areas that ATVs can be legally ridden in.

This trend is in response to public outcry over the disregard a lot of ATV riders seem to show the environment they ride in, private property laws, and just plain old common courtesy. As a responsible rider, if you see someone doing things that will only aggravate this problem further, take the time to stop and tell them that what they are doing is wrong and can only lead to ATV riders everywhere losing out. If the one that love to go raise hell aren't stopped soon, they WILL ruin things for everyone. Just show a modicum of common sense and respect for your surroundings, and things will go much better for ATV riders everywhere.



### **Choices To Make For Your First ATV**

With ATV usage at an all-time high in the US, more and more people are getting bitten by the bug. If you are one of these people and are shopping for your first ATV, some of the terminology used may be confusing at first. Here are some things you can do to make your first purchase go smoothly.

#### **Visit a Dealership**

You should always go visit an ATV dealership as your first step when buying for the first time. The dealer will be able to answer your questions and explain some of the differences between various models of ATV. Just don't forget that they are also there to make a sale to you, so don't be pressured into a purchase you are not sure about.

#### **Try Before You Buy**

You should try to rent the particular model of ATV you are thinking of buying. Barring that, some dealers will let you take a test drive if you ask nicely and provide some form of security that you will return it. Not only can you check out the ATV beforehand, but you may discover that you aren't really that interested in buying an ATV after all.

#### **Types of ATVs**

ATVs can be broken into to very general categories: sport and utility. Utility ATVs will have racks for carrying things mounted front and/or back and will be geared a little lower for better pulling power. A sport model will usually lack the racks, and will often be lighter and faster as well. If you are a hunter, or just need to haul a lot of stuff in and out of the woods, the utility model is for you. If you are mainly interested in tolling through the woods or any kind of racing, a sports model will be your best bet. Don't forget, you can get racks on sports models as well most of the time, or take a rack off of a utility model if you don't need it.

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### **Engine Designs**

There are two engines available for the most part: the 2-stroke and the 4-stroke. A 2-stroke requires oil mixed with the fuel, since they are self-lubricating, and generally run louder and at higher RPM than a four stroke. The 4-stroke works much like a car engine, with an oil reservoir, and are generally much quieter than their 2-stroke counterparts.

### **Transmissions**

A term that often trips up newcomers is the automatic clutch. An automatic clutch is NOT an automatic transmission. You still have to manually change gears when needed, but you don't have to worry with the clutch while doing so. 2x2 or 4x4 is also a consideration. A purely offroad ATV will be best served by 4 wheel drive, while a racing ATV will gain from the weight savings of a 2 wheel drive. And don't neglect the drive train. An enclosed solid driveshaft will be much more robust than a chain or belt drive, while being heavier.

Above all, consider what you plan on doing with the ATV before you make the purchase. There are large differences among ATVs designed for different duty types, so be sure you choose one that matches what you are going to use it for. Choosing the wrong ATV can make for an unhappy owner, and thats not good for anyone involved. Choose well, and you will get years of enjoyment from your ATV.

## **Discovering The Thrills Of An ATV**

Since they were first introduced over 40 years ago, ATVs have become more and more popular, with thousands of people taking up the hobby every year in the US alone. Why are they so popular? Well, ATVs are just one heckuva lot of fun to ride. Many people enjoy ATV riding as a way to get out and have fun with the whole family. Others enjoy being able to get far away from everyone else and just enjoy nature whenever they feel like it. But as with all vehicles, there are some things you should know before you hop onto your first ATV.

Your first few times out, you should always be with someone who has experience riding ATVs. Consider taking an ATV riding class where the instructor will take the class out onto the trails for some hands-on in a safe environment. Try it out before you buy! You may discover that you don't care for riding an ATV after all. Don't immediately jump on or buy the biggest, worst machine you can find. Much like motorcycles, you should start with something smaller, in the 440-600cc range. You don't want a machine that can get away from you on a moments notice as your first ATV.

Again, much the same as with motorcycles, if you're a true beginner you should get a used ATV for your first. This is so when you damage it you won't be out so much cash, and you don't want to buy a brand new ATV only to find out you like this other model so much better!

Again, taking a safety course is highly recommended. This will let you get some hands-on in a relatively safe environment with people who know what they are doing and can tell you if you are doing something dangerously or wrongly.

Always read your owners manual thoroughly before even starting your new ATV. There is tons of useful information about your ATV, how it performs, and how to handle it in these manuals. If you bought a used machine and it doesn't have its owner's manual, you can usually get a

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replacement from any dealer that sells that brand of ATV. Just write down the serial number and go ask them for a replacement copy.

After all this, you are ready to go out on your own. Even experienced riders usually go out with someone else. At some point, you probably will roll your ATV, and they can be extremely heavy and hard to get back upright by yourself, even if you are not injured. But if you are careful and follow the safety lessons and the owners manual on what slopes can be safely handled, that shouldn't happen. Always better safe than injured alone in the middle of the woods, though.

Just follow these easy guidelines, use some common sense, and don't get too crazy, and you should be fine and enjoying the thrill of riding an ATV!

## **How To Conquer The Mud With Your ATV**

At some point in your time riding an ATV you will most likely have to get through some mud. Mud can be a challenge to get through, even if you have some experience riding your ATV.

Some ATVs are better designed than others for getting through mud holes. Four wheel drive is obviously going to be a lot better for powering through mud holes than a two wheel drive system. But a lot of the basic technique remains the same no matter what kind of ATV you are driving.

The first thing you should realize is that if you ever stop moving in a mud hole, you are most likely going to become stuck. Approach with some speed, but be careful. Going too fast can cause other problems, like the driver being thrown off the ATV as you suddenly decelerate when hitting the mud. Approaching too slow, on the other hand, often means getting bogged down and stuck.

If possible, you may wish to try and keep one drive wheel on solid terrain to provide traction. This may not always be possible, and you should be careful if you suspect that the mud hole may be deep. Having one side sinking into deep mud with the other on solid ground can cause your ATV to roll.

Some experienced riders may tell you that you should stand on your pegs when entering a mud hole so that you can better respond to any unevenness in the terrain. Again, be careful, as the sudden deceleration may throw you if you are not prepared for it. Be sure of your balance before attempting to ride through a mud hole standing on your pegs.

The most common mistake the beginner makes is to mash hard on the throttle when losing traction in a mud hole. If your tires are spinning and throwing mud everywhere, they aren't



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gripping anything or moving you forward. A tire that is spinning slower will be able to grip where a wildly spinning tire may not. This goes double for times you stop in the middle of a mud hole. Take it easy on the throttle, or you will just dig yourself into a hole.

Weight distribution can mean the difference between getting through the mud and getting stuck. You should try and keep as much of your weight as possible over the rear wheels on a two wheel drive ATV. A four wheel drive won't be as sensitive to front-rear weight changes as a two wheel drive, although you should try to avoid digging the front of your ATV down lower than the rear in the mud. Rocking from side to side can help both types get through the mud patch.

A four wheel drive will make short work of most mud pits that can give a two wheel drive real problems, but it is not invincible. If you get in a mud pit that is too deep, you risk pulling mud into your engine intake, which kills it right quick. A snorkel kit and exhaust extensions can allow your ATV to keep running with the engine completely under the mud.

No matter what ATV you are driving, remember that you may only have one shot at getting through a mud hole without a tow. Familiarity with the trails you are riding on is a big plus, and remember you should always be riding with another experienced rider. Having a buddy on another ATV can mean the difference between a quick pull out of a mud pit, and walking back to your vehicle.

### **Operating An ATV Safely**

While you ATV can be a lot of fun, it is a high powered and heavy piece of machinery. And like all such, an ATV can be dangerous if you are not careful. ATV accidents cause thousands of injuries and sometimes deaths every year. Due to their nature and the kinds of terrain you will negotiate in an ATV, it is not hard to see how an ATV could be dangerous. Here are some general safety tips you should follow to help keep you and your family safe while enjoying the fun of riding an ATV.

Take an ATV safety class. These are usually fairly short and inexpensive. Everyone in the household who will be riding should attend a safety class as well. Try to get in a class that will actually go out on the trails for some hands-on experience.

There is no substitute for experience. When you are first learning to ride your ATV, you should ALWAYS be riding with a more experienced rider. And that doesn't mean your older brother who started 3 days before you, either. Go riding with someone who has been doing it for some time, and knows how to handle the different terrains you may be crossing. The best way to learn how to navigate a tricky area is to be able to watch someone else who can do it first, and who can explain what they are doing and why.

No matter how experienced a rider you may become, you will take some falls. Wear clothing that will protect you when it happens. Always wear a helmet, and goggles or other eye protection as well, especially if you are going to be going through mud. You will be amazed at how much actually makes it to your face! You should wear pants and a jacket that are thick and durable. You will be whipping through underbrush at relatively high speeds, so protecting yourself from cuts and abrasions is a must. Many injuries each year could have been avoided if the rider had just been wearing sensible clothing, a helmet, and protective eye wear.

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Don't start off with the biggest, most powerful ATV you can buy for your first. ATVs can be hard to handle, especially in the difficult terrain where you need to be able to handle it the best. A larger ATV is far more difficult to control than a smaller one. Start with a smaller ATV, and only once you are very comfortable riding that one should you think about getting a bigger ATV.

And last, but not least, use your common sense. Don't try to tackle a climb you honestly don't think you can handle yet. Don't drive recklessly or while drinking. If you are riding at night, take it easier than you would during the day.

If you follow these simple, common-sense guidelines, you should be able to enjoy many years of fun, safe, and injury-free riding.

## **Save Money On Your Next ATV Purchase**

Whether you already own an ATV, or are considering getting into ATV riding, you are probably aware of just how expensive ATVs can be. Not only are the ATVs themselves fairly expensive, but parts and maintenance can also be a very expensive prospect. But don't worry, you can save money if you do some research and plan ahead. You will still have to be prepared to spend a significant amount of money on the sport, but you can find good prices on ATVs and parts if you do some shopping around.

Most ATV retailers, both local and online, run sales periodically. If you are in the market for a new ATV, figure out which one you want and then keep your eyes open for a good sale price on one. Unless you are lucky, you will have to wait for a while before you finally catch that sale. But with potential savings in the thousands, it can definitely be worth the wait. Also, try and have a good idea what the normal price is for the model you want is. A sale that isn't really a sale are fairly common occurrences nowadays.

Once you have that baseline price established, all you have to do is wait for the sale to happen. Most dealerships will run a sale once or twice a year, so as long as you can be patient, one will come around.

Once you actually have your ATV, you can expect to spend a fair amount of money replacing, adding, or upgrading parts. This can rapidly get very expensive if you are paying full retail price for everything. Just like the ATV itself, parts and accessories will go on sale. Again, get an idea what they go for normally and look for deals based on that.

But what about emergency replacement parts? Well, in some cases, you can still get the parts on sale. If you know that you will likely need to replace a particular part, you can go ahead and buy it while it is on sale. Then, just hold onto it until it is needed. Regular maintenance supplies

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are prime candidates for this practice. But even some of the more commonly-broken parts can be bought and stored in this fashion.

Most people, especially if they have a new ATV, never even consider buying used parts. But the savings can amount to hundreds of dollars depending on the parts bought used. Just because something is used or refurbished, does not automatically make it inferior. That used part could easily have been pulled from a practically brand-new but wrecked ATV. Check around the junkyards as well. Often, you can go look at the ATV the part is coming from beforehand, and get a rough idea of its age that way.

With a little bit of effort , research, and shopping around, you can save a lot of money. If you shop like this on a regular basis, the savings can easily add up into thousands of dollars saved over the lifetime of your ATV.

## **The Great Debate: Two Stroke vs. Four**

While the debate over which engine is better, the two-stroke or the four-stroke, is as hotly contested as ever, it may become a moot point in a few years as legislators push to completely end the production of new two-stroke ATVs. So if you are considering buying a new two-stroke, there may not be much time left for you to make your purchase.

Basically the difference between a two-stroke and a four-stroke is that a two-stroke fires once per cylinder per revolution of the cam, where a four-stroke fires once per cylinder every two revolutions of the cam. Without taking anything else into account, a two-stroke will fire twice as often as a four-stroke, producing much more power with the same displacement. Sure sounds like a two-stroke is a no-brainer, eh? Not so fast. There are several drawbacks to the two-stroke design and performance of a two-stroke.

The gasoline in a two-stroke must have oil added to it for proper lubrication and heat dissipation. Because this oil is in the combustion chamber, a two-stroke produces a lot of smoke, which is the main reason for the impending ban on new two-stroke ATVs.

A side effect of all the power that a two-stroke produces is that the engine must be periodically rebuilt. These maintenance rebuilds are not extremely complicated or expensive, but if not performed will lead to a costly full engine rebuild.

For many ATV riders, this constant maintenance is an acceptable tradeoff for the extra power and performance they get from a two-stroke. But this power is only available at nearly wide-open, since the power band is in the extremely high end of the engines RPM range. This is fine, as long as you can keep it there. But often, having to shift or back off causes you to lose that power advantage. Two-strokes are widely used in racing ATV applications, since the experienced rider can use that amazing power to quickly accelerate out of corners and into jumps.

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Four-strokes, on the other hand, require much less maintenance than a two-stroke. Spark plug and oil changes are needed on a regular basis, but the frequent rebuilds of a two-stroke are not. If an engine rebuild is necessary, a four-stroke is quite a bit more expensive to rebuild than a two-stroke.

There is no need to mix oil into your gasoline for the four-stroke, so it produces a lot less smoke than a two-stroke does.

As far as performance goes, the four-stroke does lack the sheer power of a two-stroke at its peak, but a four-stroke's power is available through a much wider RPM range than the two-stroke. There is no need to run at wide-open all the time, and leads to a much more leisurely and quieter riding experience. The low-end torque of a four-stroke is much handier when climbing difficult terrain, negotiating mud, or hauling heavy loads than a two-stroke's extreme high-RPM power. In fact, a four-stroke can get out of a full stop in mud, where a two-stroke will usually be completely stuck. And a four-stroke ATV often has a higher top speed than a two-stroke, but will take longer to get there.

In general, four-strokes are better used in recreational ATV riding, hauling, difficult terrain, and such. A two-stroke, on the other hand, will tend to be better suited for racing and light sport ATVs.



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### **Tips For Youth ATV Safety**

ATVs can be a great way to spend time with your child. If you both take the proper precautions, it can be safe as well. Not approaching ATVs from a safety first viewpoint leads to hundreds of injuries, both adult and child, every year.

ATVs are powerful pieces of machinery and should be approached as such. They can be hard for an adult to handle at times, much less a child. But children are perfectly capable of handling an ATV as long as some basic principles are followed.

Don't put your child on a ATV that is too large for them. This sounds like common sense, but you would be amazed at how many children are seen on ATVs that would be large for an adult. A light ATV, or in the case of smaller children, a child's ATV are ideal for your kids. Remember though, an ATV is not a toy, and make absolutely sure that your child understands that as well. Treating an ATV like a toy is the surest way in the world to get injured, wreck your ATV, or both.

Before your child ever gets onto an ATV, you both should attend an ATV safety course. There they will learn the basics of ATV operation and what not to do. Then, you should spend some time hands-on teaching your child the basics of ATVs, such as acceleration, braking, turning, and the like.

Always wear safety gear. This goes for both you and your child. Helmets and protective eye wear are a must, as well as protective clothing like gloves, jackets, and pants. These should be made of something durable, as they will be subjected to a lot of abuse. Do not wear baggy clothing, as it can get caught on either the terrain (such as a tree) or on moving parts on the ATV.

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Never let your children ride unsupervised. Do not allow them to ride near roads, train tracks, or on paved surfaces. Riding near cars is dangerous and illegal in most places, and because ATVs are designed to be used off-road they can easily spin out of control on smooth surfaces like roads and concrete. Train tracks, in addition to the danger posed by trains, can cause an ATV to become stuck or flip over.

Know what your child can handle, and don't take them riding in places that are too difficult for them. Most accidents happen because of excessive speed or tackling terrain the wrong way. This bears repeating: watch that speed!

If these simple safety guidelines are followed, you and you child can both look forward to many years of family fun, riding ATVs in the great outdoors. Most of these tips are pretty common sense, and apply to the adults as much as the children. Remember, it's no fun for anyone if either of you get injured out there. Keep it safe, and have fun!

## **Using Courtesy While Driving An ATV**

ATVs have been immensely popular since they were first introduced. and from the very beginning, those who ride ATVs have had to deal with many concerns regarding their behavior. Many of these are concerned with safety on the trail, while others are about respecting private property. Too many drivers simply drive wherever they please, with complete disregard for the laws prohibiting ATV use in many areas. As with any other motorized vehicle, there are many laws and rules governing ATV use.

The first rule, and some would argue the most important, is to always be on the lookout for others on the same trail. It is the responsibility of every single person on a trail to be aware of their surroundings at all times, and to be on the lookout for both other ATVs and people on foot on the trails. Being aware that someone is there is the critical first step in avoiding an accident.

Since most other vehicle traffic in the US drives on the right hand side of the road, that convention has transferred over onto the trails. You should always drive on the right hand side, since that is where others will be expecting you to be. If you wish to pass someone, be sure they are aware of you and that you wish to pass. Be sure and wait for an OK before you pass.

Horses always have the right-of way. If you see a horse and rider crossing in front of you, stop and give them the trail. After they have finished crossing, you may continue on. If you are approaching a horse and rider on the trail you are using, be sure first that the rider is aware of you. Signal that you are going to pass, and wait for the OK. Be sure and give the horse as much room as you possibly can. The loud noise and strong smells of an ATV can easily spook a horse, which is dangerous for everyone involved. If the horse starts acting nervous or agitated, shut down your engine and talk to the rider about what to do. Usually, you will simply need to let the horse and rider get some distance between you before you continue on.

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It is unfortunate that the majority of safe, responsible, and courteous riders have had their reputation tarnished by a handful of reckless yahoos. It is a fact of life that people are far more likely to remember the obnoxious ATV rider that churned up their field than all the ones that are respectful and stay off their property. The image of the drunken redneck raising hell in the middle of the night on an ATV is unfortunately an all-too common occurrence, especially when drinking or drugs get in the mix. Never drive an ATV while under the influence of alcohol or drugs! Most fatal accidents happen that way.

Even if you are riding on an ATV designated trail, odds are at some point you will encounter someone who isn't using the trail for ATV riding. Be aware of your surroundings, and show any people you meet on the trails the same courtesy you would like to receive. Follow these simple guidelines, and you will have a safe and enjoyable riding experience. Be safe, and have fun!

## **ATV Helmets: Why Do You Need Them?**

The importance of your brain cannot be understood in mere words. A fact states that each dollar spent on purchasing a helmet to save your head, results in a saving of \$30 for the society, in terms of medical expenses. Even if 80% of the chills cyclists made use of a helmet, about \$110 would be saved for the society, and would enable us to lead a happy life.

Wearing a helmet can protect injuries to the head by 85%, and to the brain by about 88%. Even otherwise, the forehead and the face is also saved by them. Today, cheap and attractive helmets are available in the market, and an estimation states that about half the injuries to the brain can be prevented if riders wear a helmet.

Given below are 3 ways in which you can save your head:

1. If you happen to drive a dirt bike or participate in any such sporting activities, make sure to use only those helmets which are approved to be used in such.
2. Safe driving is always important to reduce the risks of accidents.
3. Exercise regularly. This makes you active and increases your alertness, strength, resistance power and balance, among others.

For all people who have gone through brain injuries, there is an increased chance of getting the Alzheimer's disease as well. Though everyone is prone to brain injuries, the younger generation is more susceptible to it. But regardless of age, protection of your head is extremely important.

When you are driving any sport machine, helmet is a must. The composition of a helmet includes the outer shell, the protective layer inside, the padding for comfort and the face guard. Here, polycarbonates or Lexan (both plastic), Kevlar, carbon fiber or fiberglass can be used to make the outer shield. Using carbon fiber or fiberglass is on the expensive side, but the helmets made using them are very strong, and recommended over the cheap plastic helmets due to stronger durability.

The helmet must fit on your face firmly, not giving it space to move about. If it can be easily pulled out after it has been tightened, it offers very less protection. There are many sizes of helmets available for children and adults so you do have a lot to choose from.

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Finally, do give due importance to the face shield, which will guard you against dust, wind or any such flying thing. Many helmet manufacturers go for a ultra-violet coat on the face shield to protect you from the sun. Most helmets last for 3-5 years, and if damaged in between, do replace them.

Of late, the quality of helmets in terms of style and safety has improved a lot. Besides, varieties of helmets are available for various purposes, thus giving people a wide option to choose from.

### **ATV Helmets: For Kids**

Kids riding their ATVs must necessarily wear their ATV helmets. Taking a little bit of precaution will not do any harm. In fact, it can prove instrumental in allowing you to enjoy your ride without having to worry about your skull and jaws. It must be the duty of parents to check if their child is wearing an ATV helmet while riding or not. After all, if it is all about fun, why not ensure that you give them the fun moments of their lives to the maximum?

The number of road accidents has seen an alarming increase in the United States in the recent times. It is for this reason that wearing of ATV helmets has been made compulsory in several states. This has shown results so much so that these states have a marked drop in their accident rates after the implementation of this regulation.

Children have this complex about helmets which they need to get rid of. They must understand that not only is it risky to ride their ATVs without a helmet, but also a smart thing to do. If they say that nothing has happened to them so far without a helmet, then they must be told that it does not mean that will not happen to them in future. Also, the complex that helmets are not cool enough must be got rid of immediately.

The following are some of the things that you must bear in mind while supplying your child with a helmet that they can wear while riding their ATVs:

- Never give your kids old helmets that say, belonged to their father or older sibling. Head size of every individual is different and it is important that each wears helmet of precisely their own size. Ill fitted helmets do no good when it comes to protection of the head.
- Also bear in mind that the life span of most ATV helmets is up to five years. That is to say that after this period of time they must be replaced. Also, if by chance your child has been involved in an accident it is advisable that his helmet be replaced because many of these helmets can deal with only one impact.
- To encourage you child to wear a helmet each time he goes riding you can get him one which is attractive to look at. Helmets these days come in an array of designs and shapes which help the child feel that he will not look un-cool wearing it. Moreover, the utility of the helmet is not compromised upon at the cost of outer embellishments.



## **ATV Helmets: Buying Online**

Purchasing anything online is not always beneficial to the customers as there are numerous websites on the internet who take the customers for granted. In fact, some of them openly charge higher prices, and what's more, a few don't even deliver the goods after the payment has been credited to them. If you talk about calling up the customer care center, they are as good as non-existent, and mostly unhelpful and rude. So if you ask anyone who has got some ATV apparel from even the most reputed brand of the market about online shopping, he would suggest you to stay away from it. So prior to entering your credit card information for any ATV apparel or other purchases online, you need to know certain things.

The primary thing would be to check the ATV seller's reputation. On the search engines, or on the site where the reseller operates, this information can easily be found out. There are many websites where any contact information of the ATV resellers are not provided on the website, and the consumers must surely be on their feet while buying anything from such resellers where the basic contact information is not provided. Even if they have a phone number, do give them a call to check the authenticity of it. On calling, you can simply ask questions like their location, general events taking place in their concern, and some other general questions which they ought to know. For further authentication, you can crosscheck the information given by them with that given on the site.

The choices available to the customers is another area where you should exercise due diligence while buying ATV accessories online. Always purchase from a website that offers the customers a lot of choices to make a selection from, rather than going for one where the choices are restricted to a select few colors and sizes.

However, when it comes to the purchase on ATV helmets online, things become a bit complicated. Check out the size of the helmet at the very outset. Measure the circumference of your head and check it with the size of the helmet listed online. If there are no details available regarding the size of the helmet, its better not to purchase from that size as it will cause you a lot of problems after you start using it.

Last but not least, accustom yourself with the various shipping policy, and the warrantee and guarantee provided for, in the sale.

## **ATV Helmets: For Racing**

With time, ATV racing has assumed great importance as more and more people from various places are coming forward to participate in the game and test their survival skills. ATV racing is more demanding than even cross country skiing. In this sport, people can encounter hills, mud, rocks, dirt, dense forests, etc. a race can spread up to many miles, but the rewards to the winner makes the efforts worthwhile. Professional boards give out a reward of about \$500,000 to the winners.

ATV racing is not meant for the faint hearted. The damage caused can be destructive, and can lead to death as well. Therefore, there are certain guidelines that an ATV racer must follow to maintain the fun and safety quotient of the game. A health insurance of the players is a must.

Each rider is personally responsible for his own actions, as well as the actions of the team and the crew members. This ensures that losses due to accident are not put up to someone else but the rider himself. Every participant in this race must agree to abide by these rules.

## **Preparing For An ATV Race**

A protective suit is the primary requirement of an ATV race. A helmet with a certification of DOT or SNELL is essential for the race. Even here, a full-faced helmet is preferred over others, and wearing goggles is a must. A reputed dealer will guide you on the various types of helmets available, and the protection level offered by each of them.

Apart from the helmet, body armor is a must which will save your body in case of a crash, and will also protect you from flying parts. Other protection elements include a full-sleeved shirt, gloves, elbow and knee pads, proper pair of shoes which envelopes the ankles for support purpose.

Proper maintenance of the ATV is extremely important for an ATV race. It is extremely important and crucial that prior to entering into a race, you get the ATV inspected by a professional to check for defects. There are many dealers who act as sponsors of various teams so they very much appreciate the safety measures for the racers. Besides, they are qualified enough to recommend you on the best of the spare parts and wheels.

Discipline is the most important thing in ATV racing. Here, an individual, and not the team, is responsible for the result.

### **ATV Helmets: The Most Important Accessory**

ATVs have recently fast caught on among the youth. It is become a symbol of freedom, excitement and liberation for them. Their ATV means a lot to them. It is more than just a machine that carries you from one place to another. A lot of personal emotion is invested in that. Therefore, it is always right that you give your ATV its due so that it can give you the maximum fun that you desire.

Embellishments to your ATV are always a good idea. It gives a sense that you have personally taken a lot of care to improve its functioning. You can always accessorize ATVs using a wide range of fancy gadgets and gizmos that are easily available. Here are a few that you may consider. We have listed them according to utility though you may want to re prioritize the list. Feel free, because it is your very own baby!

- **Storage Box:** as the name suggests a storage box will help you store anything that you wish to carry with you while riding or camping. It has proper lids and covers that will help keep your things safe and dry.
- **Hoods and Shields:** you want to provide your personal ATV with as much protection as you can from smoke, dust, rust, water, etc. A variety of grills, shields, goods, covers are available in the markets. Invest in one of those to save your ATV from getting unnecessarily damaged.
- **Pedals:** after you have got the more utilitarian accessories in place and you still want to embellish you ATV further you might want to try out pedals in a variety of designs and colors. They can be easily purchased off the internet.
- **Handles:** just like pedals, handles are also easily searchable and purchasable off the internet. It might be a very good idea to add you personal touch by adding a little spunk to your ATV by investing in funky looking and fancy handles. You will again have a wide range of designs to choose from.

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- **Front Box and Cargo Bags:** now is the time to invest in more storage accessories. You may not get a desirable storage box with your ATV and you might consider changing it. Invest in a storage box and cargo bag that meets your specifications as far as design and size are concerned.
- **Bottle Holder:** to make you ride comfortable and to enable you to take a sip of drink while riding, a bottle holder at a convenient place is an excellent investment.

## **ATV Helmets: For Youth**

For the youngsters on the motorbike, safety is undoubtedly a major concern. It may so happen that your child is very much interested in exploring the world on a motorbike. You should make sure that while he rides the motorbike, he is given a safe helmet for his security which will leave you without any worries of any mishaps.

Helmets of an appropriate size and that which fits the child are extremely important. Each of the dealers of helmets of motorbikes should have the services of an expert person who will guide you in selecting a helmet that fits your child in the best way.

For this purpose, it is very important to take your child along with you while you go for buying the helmet as accurate measurement will be possible in that case. It will also make sure whether your child is comfortable with the helmet or not. Given below are some suggestions which will aid you a great deal in determining whether or not a helmet fits your child well.

Allow your child to try on several helmets to check whether he is comfortable with it, as he is the best person to judge that. Ask him to check himself out in the mirror, to make sure that the helmet lies just above his eyebrows and check whether there is any irritation sign when the helmet is taken out.

In case of a motorcycle helmet, the comfort liner should be according to the shape of your child's head, which will make sure that with repeated usage, it only becomes more comfortable to wear on. Besides, the ant-fog and anti-scratch elements should be given due importance that they deserve. Also ensure that the visor has no contact with the outer shell of the helmet, because that will obstruct clear vision.

For selection of a motorbike helmet for a child, remember that lighter helmets are always preferred over the heavier ones, but as far as safety goes, they are less safe. So it is your duty to set up a fine balance of both the aspects and select a helmet which your child is comfortable in, and ensures optimum safety to him as well.

Storage of the helmet after purchasing one is very important. Try not to place the helmet at high places where they are prone to falling down and cracking. Take due care of the helmet to protect it from any damage. Also make sure not to mishandle the helmet which will ensure that it runs for a longer life.

## **ATV Helmets: Looking For The Unique**

Selecting a unique ATV helmet is very difficult. Such kinds of helmets are generally not found with local helmet dealers, but with the specialty ones who deal in unique helmet designs for various riders.

The getup of a rider is hugely enhanced if novelty helmets are used. In fact, you should consider those helmets while going out for a ride to stand out in the crowd. Making use of such novelty helmets can make you very popular among motorcycle riders in a relatively short span of time.

You can have a novelty helmet for yourself in many ways. Many dealers offer special novelty helmets which are indeed very attractive and irresistible for a biker. If you cannot get your eye on any helmet, you can order for one as per your specification. For this purpose, you need to be very clear regarding what kind of a helmet you want. So if you opt for a special order for a novelty helmet, it gives you many advantages. Besides making you feel comfortable in it, being designed as per your specifications, the helmet looks good on you as well.

But it's very important to take due care of the novelty helmet that you have so specially designed. Handling such helmets is difficult, no doubt, but you should take as much care of them as possible. Besides, while cleaning the helmet, use a very mild soap. Avoid the usage of petroleum products for cleaning since they can decompose the outer protective layer of the helmet. It would be obvious to state that you must ensure that the helmet is not dropped on any hard places. A slight crack in the helmet will be sufficient to wipe out the comfort level that you experienced while you put it on. This will reduce the safety measures, which are so very important for a helmet.

Also make sure not to place the novelty helmet in close contact with any cleaning or gasoline products, or even in extreme heat or near fire, because their contact with the material used in making the helmet can result in chemical reactions not visible to the human eye.

Make sure to read instructions regarding the painting and the decoration of your helmet. Painting can alter the composition of the helmet which will again alter the safety measures. Besides, don't hang your novelty helmet on the side mirrors, sissy bar or the turn handle. This will damage the helmet's inner layers and reduce the effective life of the helmet.

So take good care of your helmet and it will deliver what you purchased it for!



## **ATV Helmets: Safety Before Coolness**

A dirt bike helmet is always preferred for safety purposes. Almost all the bikers wish to look cool while riding but dirt bike helmets are extremely important to consider while buying the protective gear for your dirt biking. Yes, without an iota of doubt, jersey, clothing, boots... are all important for a biker, but the helmet saves your head, literally! There are many factors which are to be considered while buying a helmet, and while it is your first time, you need to ensure that you make no blunders!

### **What to look for while buying dirt bike helmets?**

Remember that a helmet will be required every single time you go out for a dirt bike racing. Purchasing a dirt bike helmet for the first time is a pretty challenging task. You could have come across a helmet on the internet that looks good and is priced reasonably. Caution!!! Never buy a helmet which LOOKS good; you need to put on one and try them before buying them, and this necessitates that you initially visit a local store to check out what is best for you. This will give you the general information that you need to have about the helmet which suits you well in all terms. Even otherwise, you can negotiate over pricing when buying from a store than on the internet.

### **Are dirt bike helmets very expensive?**

Firstly, never buy a cheap helmet. Instead, go for safety without looking at the price tag. A tested helmet is always recommended over others. DOT and SNELL are certified American helmets, and are professionally proven ones. But dirt bike helmets need not be very harsh on the pocket. Within a range of \$50-100, you can surely get strong and safe helmets. It will protect you from a head crash in case you fall off the bike. But never compromise on quality and fitness just because you may be getting a helmet at a cheap price. You will have to “pay” for it.

### **From where can dirt bike helmets be bought?**

There are many places from where you can purchase dirt bike helmets. Most people recommend buying one from the general store since they have established a good relation with the dealer, but you can consider buying one over the internet as well. The flip side of internet purchase has already been mentioned, but if you are certain about the size, fitness and other specifications of your helmet, internet is not a bad option at all!

## **ATV Helmets: Getting The Right Fit**

Selecting the right kind of helmet involves more than mere circumference measurement of your head, and other brand specifications. Given below are some not-so-famous tips that will ensure your safety in case of a crash. Even an ATV helmet that perfectly fits your head cannot guarantee 100% safety during any mishaps, so read on.

### **To what extent should the ATV helmet fit?**

You surely must have heard about people recommending you to buy a helmet that fits your head perfectly. But what is the correct measure of “perfect”? A great suggestion is to try on the helmet yourself. If you can pull off a helmet with considerable ease after putting it on, it will not protect you in unfavorable circumstances, so choose another one.

### **Check the grip of the helmet**

An ATV helmet can be considered to be perfectly fit if it grabs your jaws and cheeks. Once you have put on the helmet, shake your head and see whether it turns about. Also move your head back and front. If the helmet seems to shake a lot, dump it and select another one.

### **Tug the helmet as you take it out**

As already said, the helmet must not shake about once you have put it on. Tug the helmet without releasing the closure of the retention system. If the helmet comes off, try another one. Then grab the helmet and try tugging it off. If you feel the inner lining of the helmet attracted to your skin while you pull it off, the helmet is right for you!

### **Don't opt for a big ATV helmet**

In almost all cases, bigger helmets are always better than smaller ones, but in case of ATV helmets, this is an exception. Besides being less safe, they tend to be pretty noisy once you put it on. And you wouldn't exactly appreciate keeping on adjusting the helmet all the time while you have a ride, because it obviously is irritating and dangerous as well!

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### **Refrain from getting an ATV helmet very big for your child**

Most parents prefer buying big helmets for their kids since they are under the impression that as kids grow up, the helmet can last them at that age as well. This theory can be applied to clothes, but please, don't risk the life of your child by buying a big helmet for your child. In case any unforeseen event occurs, then the helmet will simply fly from your child's head and expose him to all possible injuries that can be caused by motorcycle accidents.

## **ATV Helmets: Essential Equipment**

Riding an ATV can be both fun and risky. But the fun must not be compromised upon fearing the risk involved. Especially since the risk can easily be taken care of in the easiest way – by wearing a helmet.

An ATV was originally introduced mainly for work related activities on a ranch or farm. It was a useful thing to have around, just as any other machine or tools in which people were rapidly investing. ATVs had a particular advantage even over pick up trucks which, though were very tough, still could not go over all topographical features. An ATV was compact and could easily traverse those terrains.

These days people do not invest in ATV to use them for such practical and work related purposes. In fact, it is not only the farm and ranch workers who use it. ATV is fast catching on even among the urban adolescent and youth.

The risk involved however is the same everywhere, whether it is being used in the city or in the ranch. Helmets must necessarily be worn irrespective of where it is being ridden.

Here are some reasons why helmets are a must and why you must immediately invest in one if you have not done so already.

- Since ATVs are used for sport and fun in today's times, it is obvious that kids may tend to get reckless with it. Unlike on farms where ATVs are used to work and hence ridden at a comfortable pace, while using it for fun that may not be the case. This considerably increases risk and therefore helmets are a must.
- The machine on which your ATV runs is very heavy. Therefore, while riding it, should you happen to be caught in an accident, chances are that your head will get injured the most. And as we know that among all parts of the body the head is the most fragile and heals very slowly, care must be taken to protect it.
- Helmets are designed to absorb shock that may be experienced during an accident. In absence of such a medium that absorbs shock, the skull will have to bear it, shattering it into tiny pieces. Therefore, care must be taken to buy the right sized helmet as ill fitted

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helmets will not absorb shock effectively. Kids must not be made to wear helmets that have been handed down to them by their older sibling to whom it no longer fits. Wearing such helmets would be as good as not wearing a helmet at all.

### **ATV Accessories**

Your ride can be made more fun filled and exciting provided you find the right accessories that can be fitted to your ATV. The accessories are not only to make the ATV look attractive, but also can be used to haul heavy loads and for carrying other important equipments. They also reduce the risk involved in driving an ATV, and prevent the ATV from being damaged by other mishaps. They also provide some sort of safety by protecting the ATV from the abrasions.

The ATVs serve many purposes, provided the right accessories are chosen by its owners. It is intertwined, the right accessories must be chosen for the right purpose. Accessories like ramps, hitches, wenchers, racks are very important for rider safety, and they solve other purposes also.

Safety equipment is a must when it comes to ATVs. The safety gear is a very important accessory, and it prevents us from getting injured seriously. Helmets, goggles, gloves, rugged pants are all very important for a rider to prevent any kind of mishap. Whether the state asks us to wear the important safety accessories or not, it's the duty of every ATV rider to be wearing all those before he hops into the machine. Heavy duty covers and bumpers are also important safety accessories.

A ramp is one indispensable accessory that needs mention when ATVs are being discussed. The job of unloading and loading the ATV becomes far simple when the ramp is present. It must be made sure that the ramp is very strong and will not give way to the weight of the ATV. Tie down straps are important accessories, they must be good quality heavy duty straps that must be able to stand the weight of your ATV, suspended to the trailer or a truck. If you are sure to be traveling in your ATV more frequently, then, it is better you prepare a trailer that is made for the sole purpose of transporting your ATV.

The hitch is a very important accessory that comes in handy when something is to be towed using your ATV. The hitch is strong enough to pull practically anything, and everything, right

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from wagons to other ATVs. It is very useful in case you have to move things from your yard to wherever you want. Another important accessory that requires mention is the Winch. Winches are very useful, not only for your ATV, but even otherwise. The winches are mainly used to pull things that are stuck in mud or something of that sort.

Some of the accessories are really cool, that they enhance the look of your ATV in many ways. Custom made body parts are the best examples for these. Accessories are the best ways to customize and kick your ATV's looks to a greater level. All that matters is that the accessories that you buy must be compatible with your ATV, and you must know how to use it.

Even if you don't go for the other stylish accessories, make sure that your ATV has the most important accessories that enhance the safety of your vehicle, and ride safely.



## **ATV Safety Training Course**

Riding an ATV is nothing short of fun and excitement, it is one of the finest sports that can assure hours of entertainment to the onlooker. Nothing can beat a great day at the trails with the sun and wind for your company, along with a loving family. There are many safety concerns in this sport also, one needs to keep a lot of things in mind before you start having fun in that machine. Though this vehicle has been designed with fun as the key in mind, there are many hazards involved. So, before accelerating your ATV on the trails, it is really important to catch up with a safety course, failing which, the consequences might be really bad.

First, one needs to know that, we don't need any license to be riding an ATV. Most of the people who learn to ride an ATV learn it from either their parents or their friends. It is not wrong to be learning it from your family members, but there might be certain points that they might have left out, which can be really disastrous.

It is possible to find places that will give a proper safety course in ATV driving. But not all the courses offered are properly given by trainers who are certified. The ATV Safety institute was established in the year 1988, with the sole intention to provide a proper safety course that will educate the riders with the methods of safe operation of the ATV, and this might even cut down the number of accidents that take place while riding ATV. It worked wonders, and ever since that place was established, the number of accidents decreased to a great extent. The ASI is not a commercial organization.

The main producers of ATV such as Yamaha, Honda, and Arctic Cat give the buyer an option to avail the safety course free of cost and this was actually welcomed by all users and buyers. Even if one does not own an ATV, or has planned to get one for a friend or a family member, they can take course here, for a very nominal fee. The ASI courses include using the vehicles that were either donated by users, or by the manufacturers, or from any of the local sports shops. It is important that you check it out with the instructor first and find out if you really need to bring down your ATV to the spot every other day of the training.

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The course give here in ASI gives all the basics of operating an ATV. And learning to ride one also takes very less time only. Each step is slowly taught to you by the instructor properly who is certified. All the coaching is done in a very controlled environment. It begins with the proper safety equipments, followed by how to start your ATV, and stop it. Later, we learn about taking the ATV up and down the hill, and move around obstacles. All these are done in closed environment. Each step adds on to the thrill and becomes challenging towards the end.

Many children who are 6 years old also take this course. Special classes are held for all age groups. All the instructors on board are technically sound, and are experienced. There are many certified instructors working for this purpose scattered across the full of United States of America. For further queries, visit the website at <http://www.atvsafety.org/>

### **Handling Mud With Your ATV**

There are certain ATVs that have been designed in such a way that they can make way through deep mud, but the method of moving to the opposite side is basically same for all ATV models. You might get stuck in between while trying to cross a mud hole, in case you stop in between, you have no other option but to be pulled out of the mud using a tow truck. It is important to maintain a particular speed while crossing mud, so that the ATV might even slide across the mud even if does not have the required traction. We even try placing one of the 4 tires on a solid ground, and get hold of a wee bit of grip. That can be achieved by straddling the ruts and somehow managing and staying on high ground. The depth of the mud must also be kept in mind before crossing it, so that the TV might not get tipped off.

A common mistake made by new ATV riders is accelerating while they get the feeling that they are losing traction. If the mud is flying around due to the acceleration, then, it is going to be really hard to get some traction. Sometimes, if there is lesser acceleration, the tire might coincidentally get some grip off the surrounding area, if the acceleration is more, then, it will make the situation worse.

You should remember the fact that tires with more weight are good and find it easier to get a grip of the region. At times, putting on weight on one particular side might help you pull out of the mud, due to the excess weight on the tires.

The four wheel drive is always the best option to get your ATV off mud, but you must also remember that if the mud is in excess, then, the even a four wheel drive might not help. You can actually use a exhaust extension and a snorkel kit, so that the engine does not suck up any mud. Some tires are better with more distinguished tread, which can pull you out of the hole.

One has to stay calm while handling mud hole, so that your capability to think does not get reduced. One has to think and act, as there are many ways to make your tire grip on to something and prevent it from slipping.

## **Choosing The Right ATV Helmet**

After you choose the right ATV for yourself or for any of your friends, the next step is to test riding your ATV to ensure that you have purchased the right ATV that suits your needs. And the best part is that, you will be happy that you have got one which did not smudge your budget, or your requirements. You might be using your ATV for either trails, or for farm work, in both the cases, rider safety is very important, and being clad in the safety gear is given utmost importance. The jackets, gloves and the rough pants all go without saying, but, another thing that is to be kept in mind is the helmet.

One should know what to look for while hunting down a helmet for safety sake, say, factors like the fitting of the helmet, tightness are all to be kept in mind. One must realize that all helmets do not fit everyone; only one or two helmets will fit you, and make your ride even more comfortable. You must make sure that a specifically designed helmet is used for your ATV. You must not end up getting a regular street motorcycle helmet. The ATV helmets that are used cover one's head up completely, and it has a faceguard, which extends over the mouth. When you first wear a right sized helmet, it will be too hard to wear; it is because of all the padding that is inside. In case it slips through easily, then you can be sure that it is a big sized helmet. Do as many movements as possible to verify if your helmet is too loose and if it will slip and slide while you are riding an ATV. The heaviness of the helmet also matters. You must be sure that you will feel comfortable wearing it, in case you are planning to go for longer rides.

The helmet must not come off your head that easily. In case of an accident, where there are possibilities for you to be thrown off, if your headgear is going to get kicked off your head that easily, then there is no point in wearing one. Keep the chinstrap tight, and try to grab the helmet from the back, if the helmet slips off and falls, then, it is not right. Next thing is checking it by moving the helmet from side to side. When you do this, your skin must move along with the padding, it is only then you can be sure that you have got a good fitting helmet.

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Women have another problem when they have to decide on the helmet they want to get. The way she ties her hair matters a lot here, because, the size of the helmet must be varied accordingly. If she has got short hair, then she does not have any problem pertaining to the helmet, because the helmets are designed that way. In case she plans to tuck her hair inside the helmet every time she goes for a ride, then she needs to consider getting a bigger helmet for herself, so that she can feel comfortable while riding with her hair tucked up.

The helmets that children need to wear are different. In case the parents decide to get a headgear for their child, which is a little bigger for the kid, with an intention that the kid will grow faster, then, it is absolutely wrong. Helmets are meant to be tight and catching, that is when it will be able to serve the purpose. If the helmet is going to be big and airy, then there is no point wearing it.

## **Off Roading - Unbelievably Fascinating**

Las Vegas is not just filled with casinos, striptease, shows, slot machines, glitz and money. Many people still have not realized that the south of Nevada is filled with the best and is the house of some of the most exciting outdoor activity across the whole of United States. The Meade National Park Lake is not just a place that offers a good tour of the Hoover Dam, but it is also a hotspot when boating, skiing, scuba diving are concerned. The roads that circle the lake are regularly visited by the bicyclists, motorcyclists, walkers and runners. If you travel deep into the National Park, you hit Valley of Fire, a park that was named for it's beautiful rocks and unbelievable landscape. The Red Rock Canyon Lies in the west end of Vegas.

The trails for ATV crowd here cannot be forgotten. The two major areas in the Las Vegas where all locals go for a ride are the strip that is outside the city, say a half hour drive from Vegas to the northern end of this strip that is past the Nellis Air Force Base, and the Dry Valley Lake of El Dorado.

The Nellis Dunes reached in many ways, either follow the Las Vegas Boulevard that is close to the north and well past the Vegas speedway till you hit the end of the road, and take the Apex exit and take the right from there. The dunes cannot be missed on this road stretch. The dunes lie to the immediate left of the I-15, which can be seen from the exit ramp. The trailers come here every other weekend. The kids and the adults will be riding the ATVs and other dirt bikes here.

If the Boulevard South is followed as far as it goes, then, you will end up realizing that you are actually moving parallel to the I-15 that proceeds towards California. That stretch of road takes you to the beds of Jean Dry Lake. This area is actually a open desert, where there is plenty of spots for trail riding, it takes only twenty odd minutes from this strip.

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Another ATV hotspot is right outside the Vegas, the Dry Lake Valley of El Dorado. This place can be reached by taking the US 95 or by taking the Boulder Highway that is towards the south of the searchlight. The trail lies seven miles past the Casino at Railroad Pass. And, there is one close to the US 93, which is the Logandale Trail System.

Any first timer to the Vegas would consider hiring one of the trail guide to look around. Most trails here are unmarked, and they are pretty difficult to follow, in case you are not familiar with this area. Moreover, the guide will give you some support over the patches that are really rough in this trail. All the ATV people here in Las Vegas will gladly extend their help to operate the vehicle properly. The off road vehicles here in Nevada do not require a license or a registration. But the only restriction is that, the riders below 15 must take supervision from adults while riding. And, another thing is that, everyone is forced to wear a headgear. The headlights need to be switched on from evening till morning. Another precaution that has been taken to save lost ATV riders is that, all ATVs must have a bright colored flag suspended from their vehicles, so that the other riders will be able to spot them in case they are lost. One must keep to the trails while riding an ATV. And operating an ATV after consuming alcohol or sedating drugs are punishable by law.

## **Sizing Up An ATV Helmet**

Wearing a helmet is one of the most important things that need to be done by any ATV rider. It sure is a task to be finding the right helmet that suits your needs, and it must be a comfortable fit that protects you from all sorts of hazards. Certain things are to be done to make sure that the helmet you buy is perfect and will save you, in case any accident occurs.

The ATV helmet must always be snug. Snug and tight are not the same. If your helmet manages to slide over your head from one place to another, then, your helmet is not snug, it is too loose. Your helmet must give a wee bit of resistance when you pull it over your head, otherwise, it might move off your head when you meet up with an accident.

Your helmet must stay in place, no matter how much you move. When a helmet is being tried on, shake your head from one direction to another, and check if the helmet moves, if it moves, then, it sure is not the right helmet for you. Your helmet must be comfortable gripping your head, and must not be hard and unbearable.

The helmet that you choose must not come out at any cost, no matter what happens, after you fasten it. The chinstrap can be adjusted in any possible way, but make sure that your helmet is not kicked off while you try to remove it. If your helmet moves even a little, then, it is not the right helmet, and you have to go in for a better one. The helmet must be tight and snug. Even when excessive pressure is applied to it, the helmet must not come off your head after it has been closed.

The biggest helmet, that does not fit your head, in no way will be able to protect you from any injury. Fit is the most important thing that needs to be kept in mind, and not the size of the helmet. If the helmet is too large, it is very unsafe and you might end up adjusting it all the time while riding, which itself might cause an accident. So, make sure that you get one helmet that fits you best, and it is not the size that matters.



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Buying too big a helmet for their child is another common mistake that most of the people do. The whole logic of your child growing must be put aside for a while; there must not be much space for the kid to move its head comfortably inside a helmet. The big sized helmet will certainly not protect your kid from the accident that can possibly occur.

It is important to buy your kid a helmet that fits him at this age, you will have to keep replacing it from time to time, but this will be much lesser than what you will have to pay in case your child gets injured. The purpose of a helmet is to prevent any major injuries to your head in case an accident occurs, so please pick the right helmet and stay safe.

### **Tips For The First Time ATV Buyer**

If purchasing an ATV is your first priority now, then you sure must know that it is a big investment. Buying an ATV is not just the initial cost that runs to several thousands of dollars, but also requires more funds to maintain your ATV, more or less like your car. ATVs require gas, oil and all other things that are required for a car, and additional funds for replacing broken parts.

Buying an ATV must not be a decision that has to be taken in the lighter tone; one must know all his requirements before purchasing an ATV. A beginner must always start off with a model that will not leave a big hole in your budget, and moreover, the practice part also matters, it is not suggested to shell out money on a very costly vehicle and then end up crashing it somewhere. When you are confident, you can upgrade. All the safety gears must also be purchased along with an ATV. Winches are also required for casual riders.

You will surely know what kind of an experience you need while you decide to purchase an ATV. One might want it to be a reason for his excitement; others might just look for some casual fun. Some might want it for hauling other farm materials such as plow etc. ATV can be really useful, and at the same time be really fun. As long as you look for fun, it is suggested you take a lighter model with many accessories. In case you are looking for an ATV to help you at work, a totally different set of accessories need to be employed. In this case, a heavier model is preferred.

The type of engine to be chosen for the ATV also depends. A 2 stroke engine is used in case of fun riding, and oil and gas are mixed. A 4 stroke engine best suits work atmosphere. And the type of transmission also matters, whether it is manual or automatic. ATVs with automatic transmission are similar to the automatic transmission cars.

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If you prefer the manual transmission, then the performance and the control of the ATV increase. And semi-automatic transmission also is preferred, which is actually a cross between the 2 types of transmissions.

Another option is the starter, you can decide which type of starter you want, electric or a kick starter, and some even have pull start. Though it is not an important factor, it does have a role to play in an ATV.

The electric start is the best for people who want to take it easy. The kick start has a lever that has to be kicked, which is at the bottom of the ATV.

The pull start in an ATV is more or less similar to the one in a lawnmower, where a cord is given, and it has to be pulled in order to start your ATV. Buying an ATV requires a lot of research work, and it is not very easy to go out there and choose whatever you see. So, watch out, and buy the vehicle that best suits you.

## **What ATV Trail Best Suits Your Personality?**

Most of our ATV loving friends come up to us and say that they have found a new spot for developing the skill, and we have even seen them rush out with all the enthusiasm in the world to ride their ATVs, how many of us have really dared to take a step forward and try to take up ATV trailing as a pleasure activity?

We claim to be individuals with distinct personalities; honestly, we are all self programmed robots, who can eat, nothing more than that. What you might find interesting might not even be respected by another ATV rider, that why here comes a compiled piece of information, that gives you ideas about ATV.

If speed thrills you, then, ATV can possibly be one of the most interesting sports. Jus go out to a flat trail and ride the ATV to feel the wind on your face.

Flat trails and fast trails are tracks that let you accelerate to any speed you want, and hit one place after another. It is best to look for such spots here in grounds than on hills, because there cannot be a long plain stretch on the mountain. This kind of speedy experience can be felt in the Middle of America; they are brilliantly interesting, and crazily fast.

But, if you prefer the notorious turns, because you prefer the four wheel drive, then, it is suggested you try the tracks that have loads of twists in them.

It is a pleasure to be riding your ATV across places that are completely surrounded by wood, and accompanied by a stream. Rocky areas can be really dangerous and might even damage your ATV. But, smaller hills are good to be covered. It is fun to move around with your ATV in hilly places.

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The terrains here offer a cool rollercoaster like experience, with steep plains, and with interesting turns which can make an onlooker watch the scene without removing his eyes off the ATV that is gimmicking around.

The mountains are beckoning; there is no point in being too laid back and leaving out the fun that is involved in riding around your ATV, which can be compared to the rollercoaster rides that are damn adventurous. Always keep your speed under control, and travel up and down the hills and feel the fresh air gushing in. this can be a great stress buster in this fast world.

In case you are this bookworm, or a person who prefers the TV remote over a steering wheel, the best suggestion is to try riding an ATV, which can give you awesome pleasure.

The 'pleasure potpourri' is an apt place for people who can't make up their mind as to what exactly their perfect holiday must be like. These kinds of interesting ATV journeys can be found anywhere across the country. All the necessary surroundings for a proper trail can be found here, beautiful valleys, vast hills, gravel, and what not.

Your personality does not matter anymore, you sure can relax and feel assured that there is one ATV trail there, open for you all the time and you don't really need to feel afraid to go out and take what you prefer. Even if you are a pleasure rider, it doesn't matter, just go out there, and you might find some seriously cool ATV spots. You will never realize what it is till you start exploring, so, just step ahead, the trails are beckoning.

## **Why Some People Dislike ATV**

**Summary:** Not all people like ATVs, or find them as interesting as the other motor sports, though many people like it, there are a few people who don't prefer ATVs, this article deals about the reasons for the same, just read on.

There have been some incomparable debates between motor sport enthusiasts who prefer riding their vehicles outside, and other nature lovers who blame these people of spoiling and crippling nature in the name of having fun. The regular argument is that the ATV riders have as much rights as the others to be riding their machines in the open areas of the states, just like anyone else. They feel that riding the machines in open places are hampering other livelihood activities like fishing, hunting, hiking etc. They have even been blamed of harming the flood plains. Even though there are regular conflicts, the ATV riders are still looking forward to spread this activity.

The primary justification for imposing a ban on ATV riding in several areas is the ill effect that it has on the environment. The ATVs are smoky, damn noisy, and they actually move the top soil away, but, these have little effects on the environment. But, it is possible to damage the environment by riding the ATV carelessly across waterways. The greatest damage done by the ATV is the hampering of the vegetation that is there in the water fed regions. The soil in the riverbank is held by these plants, so, damaging these plants will worsen the situation by letting the soil move away, which will let the water direction change and end up in flood. This damages the bottomlands, where many animals like turkey, deer and several wild birds live. The increase in the amount of erosion is another cause of concern, erosion close to the streams is causing the sediments to get settled over the water, and this makes the situation for the tadpoles and all hard to survive. This in turn, affects the ecosystem. This hampers the fishing industry, and other fishing opportunities. Most of this damage is caused by riding the ATV up and down the stream.

In case you are going to be riding in an area that is known for hunting, then, you sure need to take some time off to know if the animals are in season, and the consequences of riding the

## **Getting Most Of Your ATV – A Guide On How To Maximize And Enjoy Your ATV**

ATV there. Many hunters keep cribbing that the ATV riders spoil their catch with the excessive noise that they produce from their vehicles, and that they have been waiting for ages to get a good catch, maybe, one like a big turkey or a juicy deer. The catch gets alerted with the excessive noise, and the hunters have no other option but to leave the place with no catch, for which they have been waiting even for several weeks. So, the ATV is more notorious than famous in such areas, and their presence is not appreciated by any living being.

Even though there is a lot of conflict going on between the ATV lovers and other nature enthusiasts, everyone has to understand that nature has to be respected. Most of the people in those areas would have ridden an ATV. Most of the hunters would have used the ATV to cover the ground quickly and enter areas where they can catch the prey with all the ease. The turkeys and the deer might get used to the sound of an ATV. But, again, it is quite true that an ATV does do damage to the wildlife to a great extent, which is a solid reason for nature lovers to restrict ATV rides.

### **Youth ATV Safety**

Agriculture was the prime reason for the development of ATVs; it was used for hauling the equipments and traveling in the farms. It has now become a phenomenon amongst the youth. They are using ATVs for racing also. The excitement provided by an ATV is unbeatable, that too in a vast terrain that is waiting to be explored. Riding an ATV is an awesome activity that gives lot of enjoyment for the riders.

There is equal amount of danger lurking too, especially for children. Even for adults, when they lose control of the ATV, it is too dangerous. Moreover, the kids have very less experience in driving an ATV when compared to an adult. It is important that the kids follow the safety rules before they start riding, in order to avoid any injury.

It is important that the children respect ATVs and not toy around with it, and it must be operated with a lot of care. Children must never ride them in the absence of any adults, or in the lack of supervision. It is important to educate the kids about the consequences and the injuries that can take place in playing around with an ATV.

The foremost thing that has to be done before the kids start handling the ATVs is attending the safety course offered by ASI. Most of the states press on the issue that any rider below 16 needs to take compulsory safety training course before starting off legally. It is important that you go with your child to the training course, so that you can impose the rules properly on the kids.

Another factor is the size of the ATV, your child needs to take on the right ATV to feel comfortable. Adult sized ATVs are meant for adults, and are too large for the kids to maneuver it. The chances of injuring himself increase in such a case. Go for the youth sized ATVs in case you are planning to get one for your kid. The engine size is another factor to be kept in mind. Larger the engine size, harder is the task of maneuvering it, especially for a kid.



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The safety gears need to be kept in mind while riding an ATV. The gloves, helmets, goggles, shirts are all important while getting on the machine to ride around. A law has been framed that a helmet should always be worn while handling an ATV, as it decreases the chances of getting injured. All the safety gears must suit your kid, and he should feel comfortable wearing them.

It is important to check the ATV after every use, to prevent any mishap or malfunction. Inspecting the ATV will ensure safety. It is not enough if only you know how to inspect it, teach the kid as to how he can inspect the ATV. It is important to check the ATV for breakages after every use, because the previous ride could have been rough. So, riding according to the norms, will multiply the fun, and assure safety for the kid.