



By Kit J. Vercella

Silver Eagle Outfitters

Repreve T-Shirts

OKAY, HERE IS THE WAY THAT I SEE IT.

For laid-back lounging comfort, I got for cotton T-shirt. For light to moderate physical activity in cool temperatures, I choose a light-weight Merino wool T-shirt. For profusely perspiring conditions in hot temperatures, it's a silk-weight microfiber T-shirt. For potentially perspiring conditions with no shower in sight, I like an anti-bacterial microfiber T-shirt like the Silver Eagle Repreve.

Yes, there are other brands of anti-bacterial microfiber T-shirts. And, yes, I have found them to be good products for riders. But the Repreve long and short-sleeve T-shirts seem to stand out in this competitive active wear market.

The shirts are made from silk-weight polyester fabric which is woven to breathe and to wick moisture away from the body. In other words, they regulate body temperature.

During manufacturing, the fabric is impregnated with a Microban® treatment. This anti-microbial process is designed to inhibit the growth of bacterial, mold and mildew—the progenitors of stink. Unlike other treatments, Microban® supposedly cannot wash or wear off.

Call it trendy or call it responsible, the Repreve shirts are “green.” The microfiber yarns in the fabric are made from 100% recycled products by Unifi—the producer which is headquartered in North Carolina. Recycling means less consumption of energy products.

The company also participates in the “1% For the Planet” campaign, whereby 1% of annual sales revenues are donated to various earth conservation funds. As a consumer of Repreve products, you can actually vote for the donee of your choice. (For details, see www.repreve.com).

Increasingly more outdoor clothing offers sun protection. The Repreve shirts use a UVA/UVB yarn called Mynx UV® that is woven into the microfiber fabric. Unlike UV treatments that are added to the finished fabric, Mynx UV® is permanent and cannot wash off.

If all T-shirts were created equal, a soft cotton T would be my preference. It is unfortunate that they are not. As riders we have to deal with various weather conditions and often physical exertion. A good ol' cotton T can become a clammy sweat sponge by the end of the day. So you wash it in the motel sink before bedtime, then put on this cold, damp wad of cotton that clings to your warm morning body. Delightful, right?

The Repreve T-shirt breathes. After a winter ascent up a mountain in the Cascade Range with crampon-fitted snowshoes, I was spewing perspiration faster than a sprinkler. With a sweat-saturated cotton T-shirt, I would have developed a case of the chills on the summit. But with the Repreve, I was dry and comfortable. I would expect the same when riding on a hot summer day.

I might add that by the end of the day the anti-microbial properties of the shirt did their job. At least I heard no complaints from those who rode home



with me in the truck with the windows up and the heat on.

After tossing the shirt into the washing machine, I hung it up to dry. Although the Repreve is machine dryable, I wanted to mimic conditions on the road. Within a couple of hours, the shirt was completely dry. Also after repeated washings, the Repreve was virtually wrinkle-free and retained its shape. This is not always the case with other synthetic fabrics.

With the Repreve, Silver Eagle Outfitters has developed a good, sound product that combines comfort with the various properties that are critical for us as active riders.

The Repreve is available in both short-sleeve (\$27-\$30) or long-sleeve (\$32-\$35) styles in unisex sizes S - 4XL. There is a one-year warranty on defects, as well as a 30-day satisfaction guarantee if the shirt has not been used. If used, it can be returned for a 25% restocking fee.

Available colors are white, gray, yellow/green (neon). To order or for more information, visit the Silver Eagle Web site at www.coolingapparel.com or at 888-672-6963.

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