

3 TIPS ON BUYING YOUR NEW HELMET



V-Tune full face helmet with Bluetooth and interior drop-down tinted visor. MSRP \$229.99

With a new riding season upon us, new gear is an attractive idea. But, in these tough economic times, buyers need to make their purchasing decisions with great care. A new helmet can spark your ride with greater comfort, rich features and the utmost in safety. But can all of this really be had at an affordable price? The answer is a resounding yes – you just need to know what to look for and get the most for your money.

Seek a Safety-Certified Helmet

A helmet that is certified to meet specific safety standards is your assurance that it has been rigorously tested and will provide you with the impact protection you need. Non-standard or novelty helmets will not do the job and should never be considered.

The most common safety standards for helmets available in the U.S. are DOT, SNELL and ECE. All helmets sold in states that require their use must bear a label indicating compliance with at least the DOT standards. Helmets that also meet SNELL or the European ECE standards have met additional safety requirements. Some manufacturers, like Vega, offer dual-standard helmets and keep them at a very affordable price.

If the Helmet Fits, Wear it

After verifying compliance with safety standards, the next important quality to look for in a helmet is proper fit. If it fits well, it will do its job. If it doesn't, it won't. Size and fit vary across brands so you must always try before you buy.

Make sure that it is snug, but not tight. There should be no specific pressure points causing discomfort. The helmet should not shift freely on your head when you try to move it. When the chin strap is fastened, you should not be able to remove the helmet by pulling forward.

Choose Features for Comfort, Function and Style

VENTS A poorly vented helmet can lead to overheating and fatigue, and compromised alertness on the road. A full-face helmet should have multiple vents and channel the airflow through the interior, while half-helmets usually rely on forehead vents or zip-off wind curtains to keep the rider cool.

LINER Look for one made from a highly absorbent material that can wick away moisture quickly. Most desirable are liners and cheek pads that are removable and washable – especially in a full-face helmet.

SHIELDS For full-face helmets, a new feature offered by some manufacturers like Vega is a one-touch, interior drop-down sun shield which makes it quick and convenient to adjust to changing light conditions.

CHIN STRAP RETENTION

Choose a helmet that uses metal D-Rings. Plastic quick release closures can break or degrade and compromise safety. But, if quick-release is a priority, look for one like the Echo Quick Release add-on which provides a quick release mechanism with the security of metal-to-metal contact.

Other features can include integrated communication devices and choice of graphics. Just



Echo™ Quick Release chin strap. MSRP \$8.99

because you may be watching your budget this year, doesn't mean you need to sacrifice safety, quality, function or style. A well-designed, feature-rich helmet may be just the ticket to affordably improve your ride and enjoy the days ahead on the road.

For more information please visit: vegahelmet.com.



Vega's XTS Naked half helmet in Carbon Fiber. MSRP \$69.99