

DON'T GET CAUGHT UNDER A DOWN BIKE

Many riders think that dumping a bike is to be avoided at all costs. That dumping a bike is extremely dangerous and experienced riders simply don't do such a thing. **Nonsense!!** There are very few riders with years of experience on two-wheels who have failed to dump their bike, or who will not sooner or later do so. To dump a bike may be an embarrassment, and is the stuff we kid each other about, but it need not be dangerous.

There have been many very experienced riders stop - get off their bikes and start to walk away from them - without having put their kick-stands down. There have been people mount a bike that was parked on a right-slanted slope and have the bike fall over to the right as a result. Loose gravel, water, or sand can cause a foot to slip away and the bike lay down before an eye could blink. But in virtually every case, there was neither damage to the bike, nor to the rider. It is no sin to dump a bike, but it is careless and dangerous to end up under that bike!

If you have recently moved, or are moving, up to a larger bike it would be a good idea to learn how to dump it. (Before actually DOING the following; if you haven't already read the article on "**PICKING UP A DOWN BIKE**" - You might want to...)

One way to do it is to take the bike onto a grassy area with relatively firm ground and, with the engine turned off, lean the bike slowly over to the left. You will find that there comes a point in leaning the bike where the center of gravity of the bike will move past the side of the tank and that most of the weight of the bike will be on your 'down' leg. At this point NOBODY can hold up a heavy bike, and trying to do so can result in injury! You have to decide when you have reached that point and **STOP TRYING TO HOLD UP THE BIKE**. You then let go of the lower hand-grip, **QUICKLY** step on the high peg, and step as wide away from the bike as possible with your 'down' leg as the bike lays down. If you do this correctly you will find that you remain standing, one foot on the ground, the other on the high peg, with the bike between your legs on its side.



If you try this and find you land on your hands, you probably did not let go of the lower hand-grip before it pulled you to the ground. REMEMBER... *let go of the lower hand-grip*, shift your weight VERY FAST to the high peg, and step away with the other leg. This works for the passenger as well.

With the bike down you may then observe, that it usually does not even leave its wheels because of the engine and saddlebag guards, and that there is little or no damage to the bike.

If the bike is moving faster than you can walk, keep your feet on the pegs! If it is going slower than that, stand on the high peg and let the bike fall between your legs and walk (hop) away from it.