

## G' Day Mate (Oiled Aussie Oilskin Cotton Care)

When the sails of old ships tore, they were thrown away, until an enterprising Australian (1898) found a way to treat sail cloth to make it waterproof. He sold it to the clothing makers on the docks of Sydney, who created the first Aussie Oilskin Outerwear.

1) **Jackets** – Most Oilcloth clothing comes ‘oily’ and will dry out some after use. You WON’T have to worry about the car seats or your fine Italian suit. As they dry - don’t worry - they won’t start to leak. *In fact, we say NEW coats leak OLD coats are watertight. As the fabric dries and shrinks it seal up the gaps.*

Don’t machine-wash these coats EVER! Brush off dry dirt with a soft nylon brush. If it needs more cleaning - Simply hose it down, or wash in a bucket of water (a **very small** amount of mild soap is okay). I hose my oilskin down on the line and then air-dry in temperate weather. Let the coat hang in the open air. Don’t bundle or pack until you are sure it is completely dry of water.

Oilskin outwear is sized to wear slightly big, with room to layer, and accommodate shrinkage/fabric tightening over time.

1) **Hats** – I steam-shaped, blocked and oil-treated your hat before shipping today (see [www.walkabout.com/shop/why\\_buy.asp](http://www.walkabout.com/shop/why_buy.asp)). It will need to wear-in to fit right. Oiled hats will usually be slightly big at first. Use the size inserts – “sizers” – Tuck under sweatband or hot glue them in as needed, until a later date, then you can remove them. The canvas needs to be worn in the sun and rain for it to form to your head – so, the more you wear it, the better it will fit.

2) **GLOVES** – Already rubbed with bee’s wax leather balm, before we shipped, to increase water resistance. New gloves may leak a while - old gloves will be watertight. They do need to be broken in. When worn wet, they will stretch OR shrink as needed to fit better. An old Biker trick is to get an old pillowcase and some natural bees wax. Use a cheese grater and make small shavings. Put them and the gloves in the pillowcase and run in the dryer for 10 minutes.

Cheers from Walkabout Down Under

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