

Wet Shaving While Traveling

Written by Mike Sandoval
Monday, February 21, 2011

Just because you are away from the comforts of home does not mean that you have to go without an enjoyable shave. Despite the minor inconveniences of airport security or lack of space in your suitcase, there are many popular traditional shaving products that are either designed for travel or have sturdy and compact packaging that make them smart choices. This article offers some tips and suggestions on traveling with your favorite wet shaving gear.

Your Toiletry Bag

The size of your toiletry bag or wetpack will determine a lot about your shaving kit. If you have a small toiletry bag, you may be limited to sample-size products and shaving gear that disassembles. If you have a large wetpack, you may be able to easily carry a regular shaving brush and a full tub of shaving cream. Ideally, your kit should be small enough to carry with you comfortably, but big enough to hold your shaving accessories, toothbrush, medication, etc. There are endless options for styles, including military wetpacks that are organizer-style toiletry bags with compartments that keep all your accessories separated. You can use a Ziploc bag, a vinyl kit, or a hand-tooled leather pack depending on your budget, but it is best to avoid cloth bags since you will want a waterproof material in case of spills or leaks.

Traveling with a Safety Razor



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If you travel frequently or are limited to a very small wetpack, one option is to purchase a travel-style safety razor that disassembles and can be stored conveniently in a small leather pouch. Merkur produces a quality travel razor in both open comb and regular comb variations. Another option is to browse shaving retailers that offer handy leather zipper pouches that will hold a full-sized double-edge razor, and some also include storage for your brush as well. I have used the Merkur/Dovo Leather Safety Razor Case for many years because it is versatile enough to hold any sized razor, from my [34C](#) to my [PILS](#), along with a pack of blades. The lined case works well to keep the razor protected in my wetpack.

If you do not want to invest in a travel case for your safety razor, you could easily roll it up in a hand towel or wash cloth so that it doesn't roll around in your toiletry bag. If you are traveling by air, be aware that TSA guidelines will allow you to carry on your safety razor; however, you cannot have a blade loaded in the razor or in your carry-on baggage. Keep your razor blades tucked away in your checked baggage or purchase a pack of blades when you arrive at your destination.

Traveling with a Straight Razor

Obviously your straight razor must be stowed in your checked baggage during a flight. Some straight razors are sold with a coffin, which comes in handy when traveling. If your razor does not have a coffin or protective case, you can purchase a leather straight razor case from several retailers. Unlike other accessories, having a proper case to secure your straight razor is very important. If you try to simply roll it up in a towel, there is always the possibility that the razor may slip out and open during travel. The fine edge of a straight is very delicate and will easily chip or crack if it knocks into another item in your travel bag. Plus, an open straight razor in your wetpack would be a safety hazard as well.

Keep your hanging strop in your suitcase, since it probably will not fit in your wetpack without damaging it, or use a paddle strop that is smaller and easier to pack in your luggage. Strops come in a variety of sizes and several manufacturers produce some shorter models that will fit easily in to most suitcases without having to be rolled up or risk getting creased accidentally. If you do not want to use a strop while traveling, you could use a Shavette or other barber razor that mimics the straight razor, but uses disposable blades.

Traveling with a Shaving Brush

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