

## **Darien v.s. DarienLight**

**Temperature:** *The DarienLight feels slightly better than the Darien in extreme heat (90s and up), but the difference is not great. Similarly, in extreme cold (20s and down) the DarienLight's thinner 200 weight fabric flexes slightly easier than the Darien's 500 weight fabric. The comfort and flex differences are not enough to be a significant consideration unless the intended application involves regular use at one or both of these temperature extremes. (For example, if a Darien outfit was being purchased to be used as a snowmobiling oversuit, we recommend the Darien Light version...etc...)*

**Crash Protection:** *The largest difference between the regular and lite versions of the Darien jackets and pants is in crash protection and abrasion resistance capability. The DarienLight fabric is significantly better in abrasion resistance than denim jean type fabric. In higher speed crashes, the 200 High Tenacity Nylon is far more sacrificial than the regular 500 Cordura fabric. For urban commuting, the DarienLight is fine, but it is not suitable for high speed sport-type riding. Some riders use their DarienLight gear for everyday local riding but use regular Darien outfits for longer distance riding and traveling where more highway speed riding is involved. For even higher speeds and sport-type riding we recommend the Roadcrafter suits.*

**Crash Repairs:** *We have seen a number of DarienLight jackets after typical highway speed crashes and they are nearly always unrepairable. The riders in these cases have never reported receiving any injuries as a result of the garment's sacrificial destruction, but this may be partly due to the Darien's system of impact pads which typically absorb the most severe impacts and abrasions. (Being entirely uninjured after a crash...but with the rider's gear hanging off in shreds and the helmet cracked in half and the gloves and boots both ruined...would be considered a successful post-accident ending.)*

**Application:** *Because it is better (stronger and more abrasion resistant) than denim we are comfortable recommending DarienLight gear for a lot of kinds of riding activities...but it often needs to be replaced after a crash or accident. This is a critical consideration for riders who purchase gear for long distance traveling and extended touring...especially if the trips are to areas outside of the United States. If a crash occurs during a multi-day tour, riders should be able to continue with as little inconvenience as possible. The regular Darien is less likely to be seriously damaged than the DarienLight. If an accident occurs during the course of everyday local commuting, a DarienLight jacket can be quickly replaced.*