

# Breath Taker

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By: Smootchie Outdoors



A while back I spoke to Garry at Smootchie Outdoors about their Breath-Taker masks and was invited to try them for myself. I had actually found out about them on the internet and thought what a simple idea and no one is doing it but them. Yes, I know some companies incorporate a mask into their outerwear and that adds to the cost of the outerwear as well. So, for a reasonable price of around \$10.00 you get 5 individually wrapped masks each lasting upwards of 24 hours and if kept properly in the re-sealable package they can be used more than once.

Odor particles floating in the breeze, will stick to the moisture on the deer's nose and then drawn into the olfactory organs. A deer can detect the odor of approaching danger several hundred yards away. Their elongated noses are filled with an intricate system of nasal passages that contain millions of olfactory receptor sites. Their keen sense of smell is very important for avoiding predators, identifying other deer, and identifying food sources. Perhaps most importantly, their sense of smell is important for scent communication with other deer. Deer have seven glands that are used primarily for scent communication.

The nose of a whitetail deer has up to 297 million olfactory receptors and humans have just around five million. A whitetail's ability to live day to day and make quick judgments lies in its ability to sort odors. The deer also incorporates 2/3's of its brain to analyze odors in the air and can very precisely figure out where you are in just moments.

Besides the feet and head releasing most of your scent most hunters do not think about the large amount of odor molecules released when you exhale. So, to combat this problem the people over at Smootchie Outdoors created a mask that looks a lot like a surgical mask and gave it a camo design and then capitalized on a law of physics known as "van der Waals force". Where your odor molecules are not absorbed but are attracted to and attached (adsorption) to the microscopic carbon particles in the mask. Not allowing the odor molecules to pass through the mask where the deer can't very quickly sense you are there.

Since there is not a physical way of seeing scent blocked, I guess the best scenario to best describe how well they worked for me would be during a hunt about 3 weeks ago the morning temp was a very brisk 19 degrees that morning; I was sitting there watching my breath float up and out of the blind. So, I thought I would pull one of the Breath-Takers out and put it on. Almost immediately I had eliminated any visual sight of my breath. I also found with the adaptable nose bar that the mask was very

comfortable and not at all bothersome in any way. The mask with its elastomeric ear loops fit comfortably around my ears as well.

The mask itself is 4 masks in one. I will explain each layer and I will use the info on their website [www.smootchie.com](http://www.smootchie.com) to explain these layers.

The first layer is a hydrophobic mater to help prevent moisture transfer in the carbon layer. This is to optimize the carbon absorption.

Next is a 5-micron filtration layer that makes the Breath-Taker more breathable as it screen dust, allergens and pollens that could ruin your hunt.

The third layer contains pristine activated carbon that vacuums and adsorbs up to 99% of all malodorous compounds. The second generations Breath-Taker have 50% more carbon for maximum adsorption.

The fourth and final mask is a light weight camouflage layer eliminating the need for camouflage paints.

The mask also boasts an effective temperature and moisture regulation method. How many of us have worn actual surgical masks only to have them fog or cause moisture on your glasses. I can say without a doubt this should not happen and did not happen with me while I wore them as well.

So over all for 10.00 you will get about 10 days worth of hunting out of these great masks. With the reassurance that your breath is not going to give you away.

I give these masks a definite thumbs up and look forward to more innovations from Smootchie Outdoors. For more information you can go to their website at [www.smootchie.com](http://www.smootchie.com), [www.breathtakermask.com](http://www.breathtakermask.com) or pick up the phone and call them at 1-(877)-652-2180.

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