



Pre-Ride Inspection

One of the most important things you can do to reduce your riding risk is to inspect your motorcycle every time you ride. By following the "T-CLOCS" checklist, it's easy to remember what to check. It only takes a few minutes – and could make the difference between an enjoyable ride and a frustrating experience.

Tires and Wheels

Inspect your wheel rims for dents and cracks. Make sure that the spokes are tight and straight. Check tire pressure often – daily when you are touring – and always use a good gauge. Consult your owner's manual for correct pressure and load rating. Air pressure can change with the air temperature.

Inspect the tires. Remove any objects stuck in the treads that may cause a puncture. Check for sufficient tire tread. Replace them if less than 50 percent of the tread remains, or if there are any cracks, cuts, or signs of distress. When in doubt, replace your tires.

Even a small difference in tire pressure can make a difference in how well your bike handles and performs. For a precise measure, be sure to use a quality gauge and inflate to manufacturers recommended pressure.

Cables and Controls

Check the controls to be sure they operate properly. Inspect the front and rear brakes, throttle, clutch, and shifter. Squeeze the clutch to feel if it is operating smoothly. Squeeze the front brake; it should feel firm and keep the motorcycle from rolling forward when pushed. Check the rear brake in the same way. Replace broken, worn, or frayed cables at once.

Lights

Check your headlight(s), directional signals, tail light, and brake light every time you ride. Not only do they help you see where you're going, but they are your best way of being seen by others. If a light is out, it is often easy to change it yourself.

Oil and Fluids

Start by checking your fuel supply. Check the engine-oil level according to the instructions in your owner's manual

You can double the life of your battery by checking and correcting its water level regularly.

Check for any fuel, oil, or hydraulic fluid leaks. Give the cases and lines a once-over to make sure there are no leaks.

Chassis

Inspect the chassis for cracks at gussets and accessory mounts. Check the steering for smoothness by turning the handlebars through the full operating range. Test the suspension for smooth, damped movement, and be sure to adjust it according to the load you're carrying and your riding style (consult your owner's manual.

Inspect your driveline – Sprockets, chain, and/or drive belt for wear.

SIDESTAND (KICKSTAND)

Check for cracks or bending in the metal, and make sure there's enough tension in the spring to hold it up and out of the way when riding. A dangling stand is a real hazard.

Mirrors

Before you start riding, sit on your bike and take a look in the mirrors to be sure they're adjusted properly. Even if you don't think you've moved the mirrors, do a quick check just to be sure.

T-CLOCS ITEM	WHAT TO CHECK	WHAT TO LOOK FOR	CHECK-OFF	
T-TIRES & WHEELS				
Tires	Condition	Tread depth, wear, weathering, evenly seated, bulges, embedded objects.	Front	Rear
	Air Pressure	Check when cold, adjust to load.	Front	Rear
Wheels	Spokes	Bent, broken, missing, tension, check at top of wheel: "ring" = OK — "thud" = loose spoke	Front	Rear
	Cast	Cracks, dents.	Front	Rear
	Rims	Out of round/true = 5mm. Spin wheel, index against stationary pointer.	Front	Rear
	Bearings	Grab top and bottom of tire and flex: No freeplay (click) between hub and axle, no growl when spinning.	Front	Rear
	Seals	Cracked, cut or torn, excessive grease on outside, reddish-brown around outside.	Front	Rear
Brakes	Function	Each brake alone keeps bike from rolling.	Front	Rear
C-CONTROLS				
Levers and Pedal	Condition	Broken, bent, cracked, mounts tight, ball ends on handlebar levers, proper adjustment.		
	Pivots	Lubricated.		
Cables	Condition	Fraying, kinks, lubrication: ends and interior.		
	Routing	No interference or pulling at steering head, suspension, no sharp angles, wire supports in place.		
Hoses	Condition	Cuts, cracks, leaks, bulges, chafing, deterioration.		
	Routing	No interference or pulling at steering head, suspension, no sharp angles, hose supports in place.		
Throttle	Operation	Moves freely, snaps closed, no revving when handlebars are turned.		
L-LIGHTS				
Battery	Condition	Terminals; clean and tight, electrolyte level, held down securely.		
	Vent Tube	Not kinked, routed properly, not plugged.		
Headlamp	Condition	Cracks, reflector, mounting and adjustment system.		
	Aim	Height and right/left.		
	Operation	Hi beam/low beam operation.		
Tail lamp/brake lamp	Condition	Cracks, clean and tight.		
	Operation	Activates upon front brake/rear brake application.		
Turn signals	Operation	Flashes correctly.	Front left	Front right
			Rear left	Rear right
Mirrors	Condition	Cracks, clean, tight mounts and swivel joints.		
	Aim	Adjust when seated on bike.		
Lenses & Reflectors	Condition	Cracked, broken, securely mounted, excessive condensation.		
Wiring	Condition	Fraying, chafing, insulation.		
	Routing	Pinched, no interference or pulling at steering head or suspension, wire looms and ties in place, connectors tight, clean.		
O-OIL				
Levels	Engine Oil	Check warm on center stand on level ground, dipstick, sight glass.		
	Hypoid Gear Oil, Shaft Drive	Transmission, rear drive, shaft.		
	Hydraulic Fluid	Brakes, clutch, reservoir or sight glass.		
	Coolant	Reservoir and/or coolant recovery tank — check only when cool.		
	Fuel	Tank or gauge.		
Leaks	Engine Oil	Gaskets, housings, seals.		
	Hypoid Gear Oil, Shaft Drive	Gaskets, seals, breathers.		
	Hydraulic Fluid	Hoses, master cylinders, calipers.		
	Coolant	Radiator, hoses, tanks, fittings, pipes.		
	Fuel	Lines, fuel valve, carbs.		
C-CHASSIS				
Frame	Condition	Cracks at gussets, accessory mounts, look for paint lifting.		
	Steering-Head Bearings	No detent or tight spots through full travel, raise front wheel, check for play by pulling/pushing forks.		
	Swingarm Bushings/Bearings	Raise rear wheel, check for play by pushing/pulling swingarm.		
Suspension	Front Forks	Smooth travel, equal air pressure/damping, anti-dive settings.	Left	Right
	Rear Shock(s)	Smooth travel, equal pre-load/air pressure/damping settings, linkage moves freely and is lubricated.	Left	Right
Chain or Belt	Tension	Check at tightest point.		
	Lubrication	Side plates when hot. Note: do not lubricate belts.		
	Sprockets	Teeth not hooked, securely mounted		
Fasteners	Threaded	Tight, missing bolts, nuts.		
	Clips	Broken, missing.		
	Cotter Pins	Broken, missing.		
S-STANDS				
Center stand	Condition	Cracks, bent.		
	Retention	Springs in place, tension to hold position.		
Side stand	Condition	Cracks, bent (safety cut-out switch or pad equipped).		
	Retention	Springs in place, tension to hold position.		