

[Home](#) > [Blog](#) > Summer Maintenance: Tips to Keep Your Ride Running Smooth

Summer Maintenance: Tips to Keep Your Ride Running Smooth



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Summer is here and it's HOT! The key to safe summer riding is making sure your motorcycle is well-maintained in these high temperatures. We've got some tips to keep your bike running and performing its best during the summer.

Visually check your bike before each ride.

Visually check the most important components of your bike. Make sure your tires are at the right pressure and aren't worn. Look at your brake lines. Check all your fluids and top them off if they're low. Try all your lights to make sure they're in working order.

Give your bike an in-depth check once a week.

Start by giving your bike a good wash and dry. You can get a spot-free shine with our [Motorcycle Detailing Blow Dryer](#). This will help you notice anything you may need to tweak since you'll be up close and personal to all your bike's components. Inspect your tires thoroughly. Start by making sure the cold pressure equals the suggested pressure in your manual and adjust as necessary. Look for any damage, cracking or issues with the tread. By inspecting the tires, you can avoid flats or other problems before you hit the road. While you're inspecting your tires, look at your brakes. Make sure you have plenty of life left in your pads and rotors. If you

need to replace anything, BikeMaster has you covered.

When you're done with the tires and brakes, turn your attention to the rest of your bike. If you have a chain, check that it's properly lubricated. If it's not, give it a dose of BikeMaster **Chain Lube**. Look at the chain's tension as well and adjust it as needed. This will make the chain and sprockets last longer.

While you're inspecting your bike, look for and tighten any loose bolts and fasteners. Check all your exposed wires to make sure they aren't loose or frayed, and then check the connections. Replace or repair any damaged wires or connectors. Pop open the fuse box and replace any blown fuses. Don't forget to make sure you have some spare fuses in there just in case. We recommend you carry our **Mini Fuse Emergency Kit**.

Finally, check your oil level. Because every bike is different, follow whatever your owner's manual says. If it's low, top it off with our **oil** and keep a few quarts on hand.

Here are a few monthly checks you should make.

While these are good to look at in-depth every month, you may want to inspect some of these more often if you ride a lot, starting with your spark plugs. Pull them out and give them a good going over. If you are not familiar with 'reading' a spark plug, visit **NGK**. They have a good explanation on how to do this on their website. If the plug doesn't look normal, take it to a professional. Check the gaps on your spark plug while they're out using a BikeMaster **Feeler Gauge** and replace them if necessary.

The next thing to inspect is your battery. Look over the outside of the battery and then check the terminals to see if they need to be greased. We have an **All Purpose Grease** that's great for lubing up those dry terminals. If your battery is refillable, make sure it doesn't need to be topped off. An old battery should be replaced and if you want to lighten the load on your bike, a BikeMaster **Lithium-Ion Battery** is a great solution. In most cases, shimming or pads are not required and we have a full line to choose from.

We mentioned earlier to check your tires on a weekly basis. At least once a month, give your wheel bearings a thorough check. Put your bike on a paddock stand and with one hand on the top of the wheel, use the other at the bottom to push and pull to see if you have any sideways play. Follow this with checking the bearings in your headstock. With the help of a friend and a center stand, pull the front wheel off the ground. Grab the fork legs then push and pull them back and forth to see if there is any play.

Finally, give your cables a look. Make sure they are operating smoothly with the help from our **Cable Luber**. Always refer to your owner's manual if you have any questions.

There you have it. Keeping your motorcycle maintained in the summer is easy when you have a little help from BikeMaster. Have a great summer riding season!

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