



USA
SCOOTERWORKS

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tech tips

Getting your Scooter Ready for Spring

Tech Tip #006
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Note: So the weather has been getting warmer and the scooter bug is starting to get you all worked up. Before you jump on your scooter (that has been in storage for the winter) and go for a spin, you should do a little tune up to make sure that you scooter will run tiptop all season long. Here is a list of things to check:.

Tires:

When tires sit for a prolonged period of time they will lose some air. So make sure that you check the pressure before you ride. Make sure the wheel nuts are tight and that the tire is in overall good condition. If you see any cracks in the sidewall or in the spaces between the tread, I would recommend replacing the tire.

Battery:

If your scooter has a battery you should check to the acid level and the charge. Over time the acid will evaporate and you battery will begin to calcify. It is best to top your battery off with distilled water. If the acid level is very low than you could put in some additional acid. Make sure your battery has a good charge before reinstalling it in your scooter.

Lights:

Test all your lights. Make sure your brake light works as well as the headlight. You don't want anyone running into you on your first day out. Test the blinkers to make sure they work also.

Fluids:

The next thing to check is the transmission oil. If you changed the oil before you stored the scooter for the winter all you need to check is the oil level. If you did not change it, make sure you change it now. Old oil that sits for along period of time will separate and break down. All the dirt and grunge that builds up through normal use will be stuck at the bottom of the motor and will begin to circulate through you transmission and ruin any new oil that you put in. So if you have let it sit for a long period of time my suggestion is to make a 50/50 mix of 30 weight motor oil and automatic transmission fluid. Put this in the scooter and run the bike for an hour and then drain the mix out. Refill the case with regular 30 weight motor oil. This can be pain because the oil fill hole is so small. Tip: Get an old squeeze ketchup bottle. It has a nice small hole to 'squeeze' the oil through. You know you have put enough in when the oil comes back out the fill hole.

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Control Cables:

The next thing on your list of thing to do is to inspect the cables to make sure they are adjusted and in good working order. Sloppy and frayed cables are not good and will not last very long. Replacing a broken cable on the side of the road is not all that fun (trust me on this one) so if your cables are feeling suspect, lube and adjust them and you will be in business. Test all the cables to make sure they are working correctly.

Brakes:

Make sure your brakes are in working order before you go speeding off to the local café. Sometimes when a scooter sits for a long period of time the brake drums will get a small amount of rust on the brake surface. This will cause the brakes not to grip as well. So work the brakes a few times to make sure you can stop reliably.

Nuts & Bolts:

Finally, make sure that all the hardware on the scooter is tight and that nothing is going to come loose and fall off. Check your rims and hubs, your rack and crash bars if you have them.