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www.scooterworks.com  
TECHLINE: 773 271 2267

# tech tips

## *How to Fix a Flat Tire*

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Everyone gets a flat tire once in a while—here are some tips on how to make the change a breeze.

- 1 First, inspect the tire for damage. If you ride on the flat, you can damage the tire.
- 2 Check the side walls of the tire. If they are wrinkled or distorted, the tire is no longer usable. Also, be sure and look for cuts or slices in the side wall. If you see any, it's time to get a new tire.
- 3 Next, inspect the inside of the tire. What you're looking for are foreign objects. The best way to do this is to pass a rag through the inside of the tire — this will keep you from cutting your fingers on a nail or a chunk of glass. If you find something, use pliers to pull the item out.
- 4 Next, look for broken chords in the tire. this is very common on old, original tires. The ends of the chords will knot up and rub a hole in the tube and cause a flat for sure. If you find any broken chords, it's time to replace the tire.
- 5 Now you're going to want to patch the hole in the tire. This will keep out water and dirt that, over time, can make its way into the tire through the hole and puncture the new tube.
- 6 If the tire checks out ok, it's time to put in a new tube. To be honest, i'm not a big fan of patching tubes — I just replace them. A good trick to help the tube last longer is to put some talcum powder into the tire. This will keep the tube from chafing on the tire wall.
- 7 To install a new tube, it's best to inflate the tube so that it takes shape. This will make it easier to get in the tire and less likely to get pinched by the rim. Clean the rim and remove any rust or dirt that may have built up over time. If you see any rust, clean it off and shoot some paint on it to keep it from rusting further. Next, mount half the rim and tire, and install the tube. put the other rim half on, making sure the tube is not pinching in the rim.
- 8 Once you have the rim back together, inflate the tire to the spec rated for your bike. Check to make sure the bead on the tire is seated on the rim and that there are no leaks.
- 9 Mount the tire back on the scooter, and you're off and running!