

Motorcycle Spring Cleaning and Maintenance Tips

by Gary D. Moore

Cleaning your motorcycle after Winter storage should be a delight. Yes, after the many months of waiting... doing anything to your ride is welcome. So, get out your arsenal of cleaning agents, soap, polish, and waxes... and go for it!

- Check battery terminals (clean, if necessary, with baking soda and water).
- Check, charge, or install the battery (positive lead first).
- Check oil and other lubricants.
- Check cables, and lubricate with specified lubricants.
- Check tire pressure and wear.
- Check drive belt, chain, or shaft.
- Check all lights, and operation of each.
- Check brake fluid level, and pads/shoes for wear.

- Wash or use a pre-wash, and then thoroughly "bathe" your ride.
- Dry or apply an after wash product (there are several available), then dry.
- Apply leather treatment to leather components.
- Polish and wax all chrome and painted parts.

- Clean inside of helmet with mild soap (let dry).
- Add "octane" booster (if desired) according to directions... never too much!
- Write down beginning mileage.
- Review any notes written before putting your motorcycle in Winter storage.
- Attend a Biker Blessing to start the riding season off right.

If you feel uncomfortable, or you want the opinion of a professional, take your motorcycle to an "authorized" dealer for inspection and/or maintenance.

Ride Safe!

For up-to-date tips, visit: <http://www.gmasw.com/bikescln.htm>