

# PREPARING YOUR SCOOTER FOR THE RIDING SEASON

Here's a list of everything you should check when your scooter has been sitting idle over the winter. Don't be intimidated, it's all pretty simple, and we're here to help!

*Items with an asterisk (\*) don't apply to all scooters*

## GEARBOX OIL

Gearbox oil (and your oil filter\*) should be changed regularly, based on the maintenance timeline in your manual. Use only the oil specified in the manual. The procedure varies for different scooters, today we'll demonstrate an oil change on different scooters, one of which should be pretty similar to yours.

## 2-STROKE OIL\*

Not to be confused with gearbox oil, scooters with 2-stroke engines require 2-stroke oil mixed with the gas. Sometimes it's mixed directly into the tank on each fill-up, more commonly there's a special reservoir that must be filled regularly.

## FUEL FILTER AND FUEL SYSTEM

Check your fuel filter and clean or replace it if necessary. Inspect the fuel line to ensure it's not dried or cracking.

If your gas is more than a few months old, and not Stabil-ized, drain it and replace it with fresh gas.

## AIRBOX/FILTER

Remove any critter-proofing you did for the winter and check the airbox, exhaust and any other empty spaces for critters. Check/clean/replace the air filter as necessary.

## COOLANT\*

Check level and top off if necessary. Drain and replace at specified intervals with the specified coolant.

## DISC BRAKES\*

Clean calipers and pads with brake cleaner. Check for proper lever reach and activation, check hoses for wear or leaks, and check wear of pads and disc. Repair or replace components if necessary. Check brake fluid and top off if necessary.

## DRUM BRAKES

Check levers for proper reach, check brake shoes and drums, clean with brake cleaner, and adjust cables.

## CABLES

Check throttle/clutch\*/shift\*/brake cables and levers

Adjust and lubricate as necessary for proper tension, free play, and smooth operation.

## BATTERY\*

Charge and check capacity and voltage with a hydrometer and/or voltmeter. Inspect it for cracks, leaks, or bloating, dust it off, and clean/grease the terminals if necessary.

If it's damaged, leaking, or not holding a charge, replace it with a new high-quality name-brand battery.

## LIGHTS

Confirm all bulbs are working (even the speedometer!) and that brake lights, switches, and turn signals operate properly. Adjust headlight aim if necessary. Check your horn as well.

## TIRES/WHEELS

Check air pressure. Check tread wear, manufacturer date code (replace if several years old), and condition (dry rot/cracking/flat spots).

Check that your valve stems aren't pinched or twisted, valve caps are in place, all lug nuts are in place, and tight, and that the wheels and wheel bearings are in good condition.

## LEAKS/LOOSE HARDWARE

Check all over for leaks. If any are found, clean up, then find and repair the source. Also check for any loose nuts, bolts, and screws.

## CLEANING

Clean and wax the bike, and polish any chrome/aluminum.

## OTHER THINGS TO CHECK

**Sparkplug:** clean, adjust the gap, replace it if it's been a while.

**Helmet and riding gear:** clean, check, and replace if old or damaged. Charge electronics, and check mounts and wiring.

**Paperwork:** Make sure that you have a copy of your registration card and insurance card with the bike (not the title!) and they're all up-to-date.

**License plate, city tag, and registration decal:** Be sure all are up-to-date and theft-proofed.

**Roadside Assistance:** Keep any necessary info in the bike and on your phone.

**Toolbox:** make sure you have any necessary tools and spares to be prepared for emergency roadside repairs.

*After everything is dialed in, take a relaxed 15-20 minute ride to warm up the bike and get a feel for any adjustments you've made. Stay close to home and out of heavy traffic until you're confident all systems are go. Back home, check again for leaks and loose hardware. Be sure to responsibly dispose of batteries, oils, and other chemicals.*



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