

Moped and Scooter Maintenance

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PREPARING YOUR SCOOTER FOR SPRING

If you live in a seasonal area (like Utah) you are most likely going to have to retire mopeds or scooters for the winter. Now that spring has finally come, it's time to get out your baby and get it back on the road. The checklist below is for anyone who has retired their scooter for a long period of time. Follow the details below and safe riding:

1. Spark Plug

These are very inexpensive and you might as well switch it with a new one.

2. Fuel System

Check all of the fuel lines and fitting for cracks and replace the fuel filter. Make sure there is no rust or particles in the tank, lines or fuel filter. Switch out the fuel filter with a new one. If you see gas leaking from the carburetor, remove and clean the carburetor.

3. Air Filter

Replace your air filter.

4. Battery

Check the fuse on the line that is coming off of your battery. Charge your battery (follow the directions on your battery for amps and the amount of time to charge.) Wire brush battery terminals and the connections.

5. Electrical System

Make sure all lights, horn, indicators and switches work properly. If you have a problem with one of them check the line with an amp meter and find out where the connection was lost and fix it.

6. Tires and Wheels

This is very important for you safety. Fill tire to proper PSI (check the side of the tire for the required PSI amount.) Check the tread on the tire and make sure it is not worn down. Check for cracks or slices. Check valve stem for cracks or leaks and make sure it has a cap. Tighten the bolt that hold the tire on (if the bolt can unloosen, get some screw tape to make sure it stays tight.) Stand the wheel up and spin the tire to make sure the rim is not bent and the tire does not have any bulges.

7. Transmission and Oil

Check the fluid levels and if it has been a while change the oil and fluid. Your owner's manual explains what type to use.

8. Chain

Clean, lube, and adjust any slack in your chain. Check sprockets for wear.

9. Brakes

Adjust brakes to be tight. Check brake pads to see if there is a sufficient amount of brake pad left.

10. Nuts-n-bolts

Go over the entire scooter and retighten anything loose nuts and bolts, especially around engine mounts, handle bars, exhaust, and the front/rear suspension points.

11. Appearance

Make sure your moped looks and runs great. Keep it shiny.

12. Legal

Are you up to date with your scooter registration and insurance?

13. Be Ready For Road Repair

Always ride with the tools and parts needed to fix common problems; Such as spark plug, fuel filter, fuses, wrenches and screw driver, and whatever else you think you might need. Also, have an emergency blanket and a little food and water just in case something happens and you can't fix the problem.

14. Warm Up

This is the first time the scooter has run in a while, so don't jump off the starting line at full speed. Warm up. Keep it slow and get a feel for it again. Also, if you have been living in areas where it snows, the snowplows build up a lot of gravel in certain spots. So watch out for them (it's very dangerous to stop and turn on gravel.) And lastly, keep your eyes open for new pot-holes and damage on the road.

OK, you're now set to safely hit the road in style on your newly tuned up scooter. Ride safe and have fun in the sun!

PREPARING YOUR SCOOTER FOR WINTER

If you live in a seasonal place (like Utah), go on a long vacation or just need to retire you scooter for a while, you need to store it properly. Here are steps to ensure moped scooters come out running just as good as when you stored it:

1. Gas Tank and Carburetor

Drain the tank and spray some WD-40 into the gas tank to prevent rust. I like to drain the gas tank by running it until empty. This is good because it also empties the carburetor so that it doesn't get junked up during the winter.

2. Change Oil

You want to change the oil of the clutch and gears because it will flush out dirt and particles that will collect at the bottom. Junk and debris can collect and will contaminate any new oil you put into the moped in the spring.

3. Motor and Spark Plug

To keep the engine fresh you can pour a very tiny amount of two-stroke motor oil into the carburetor, and remove the spark plug and spray some WD-40 or some light weight oil into the cylinder. Pedal the engine over a couple of times to make sure the oil reaches all parts in the engine. Make sure the engine stops in the TDC position so that moisture can't enter the engine through the exhaust. Then put the spark plug back in.

4. Tires and Shocks

Stand the bike up so that the front and back wheel do not touch the ground. I do this by using the stand to hold the back wheel up and a piece of wood to hold the front tire up. Finish off by deflating the tire.

5. Battery

Disconnect the battery and store it in room temperature.

6. Safe Storage

Store your scooter indoors such as a shed, garage or basement – storing indoors is a lot better than leaving it to be damaged by the outdoor elements. If you have to store it outside make sure you cover it with a bike cover or at least a new tarp with no holes or wear and tear.

There you go! When spring comes you are going to be happy you stored your scooter correctly and so will your scooter. Enjoy!

Stay safe out there and we'll see you on the Sunny Side!

To get your scooter > www.SunnySideScooters.com

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