

WINTERIZING YOUR BIKE

As you know, proper storage of your bike is important for safe, trouble free operation in the spring. Following are some tips to get your bike ready for the winter months ahead. These tips are very general. If you have any questions, be sure to go by what your owner's manual or dealer says.

- ? Wash, dry and wax your bike. This helps prevent rust and corrosion.**
- ? Warm the motorcycle to operation temperature. Change the oil and filter.**
- ? Check air pressure in both tires and adjust pressure if needed. Have it to spec.**
- ? Fill the gas tank completely with gas. Add fuel stabilizer. The less air that can get in the tank the better.**
- ? Remove the battery from the bike. Check the water, fill if needed with distilled water. Store the battery in a cool, dry place, off the concrete floor. Charge monthly with a trickle charger or use a battery tender. Also check the water monthly and fill with distilled water if needed.**
- ? Store your bike in a garage if possible, and cover. Set bike on center stand.**

Now that your bike is snug for the winter, let it rest. Don't be tempted to start it to hear it run. Mother Nature has a funny way of condensing water in your motor oil and engine. You must operate your bike until the engine oil reaches 212 degrees to dissipate the moisture. If you start your bike and only run it for a few minutes, all you will do is spread that moisture throughout the engine, which will cause rust and corrosion.

Don't forget to condition your leathers. They need periodic care too.

Final note, If you are using your bike during the winter months make sure that your throttle cables are properly lubricated. They can get water in them and freeze, locking the throttle open.

Courtesy Jim and Donna Cox, Region I