

YOUR MOTORCYCLE

RIDER CHECKLIST

A motorcycle needs more frequent attention than other types of motor vehicles. It is strongly recommended that you make a complete check of your motorcycle prior to each ride. A thorough check of the motorcycle can help to identify a mechanical defect or equipment failure which might unnecessarily place the rider in a dangerous position.

Before mounting the motorcycle, perform the following checks:

- Tires – Check the air pressure, general wear, and tread.
- Fluids – Check oil and fluid levels. Also inspect the underside of the motorcycle for signs of oil and gas leaks.
- Lighting – Check motorcycle switches to ensure that all lighting is working properly.
- Turn signals – Check both right and left turn signals to ensure that signals are working properly.
- Clutch and Throttle – The clutch should feel tight and smooth. The throttle should snap back when released.
- Mirrors – Clean and adjust both mirrors prior to riding.
- Brakes – Try the front and rear brake one at a time. Make sure each one feels firm and holds the motorcycle when the brake is fully applied.
- Horn – Make sure the horn is working properly.

FAMILIARITY

Make sure that you are completely familiar with the motorcycle prior to riding. This is particularly important if you are riding a borrowed motorcycle. If you are using an unfamiliar motorcycle:

- Make all the safety checks you would routinely perform on your own motorcycle.
- Thoroughly inspect the equipment, particularly the turn signals, horn, lighting switches, fuel control valve, and engine cut-off switch. You should be able to find and operate the equipment without having to look for it.
- Check the controls. Make sure you know the gear pattern. Work the throttle, clutch, and brakes a few times prior to riding. All controls react a little differently.
- Ride very cautiously until you become familiar with the manner in which the motorcycle handles. For instance, accelerate gently, take turns more slowly, and leave yourself additional room for either maneuvering or stopping.

Motorcycle Controls

