

# OFFICIAL FALL MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

## FUEL LINES AND PETCOCKS

In a well-ventilated area free of any flame, check fuel lines and petcocks for leaks. If you find any leaks, hire your Harley-Davidson® technician to fix them. (Fuel injected models are not equipped with petcocks)

## FUEL CONDITIONING

Ride motorcycle, or run engine in a well-ventilated area to bring it to operating temperature. Turn off engine. Add a fuel stabilizer to the tank to prevent varnish buildup. Top off the tank with an appropriate type of fuel to prevent corrosion over the winter. Continue to operate the engine long enough to assure that the treated fuel has been run through the carburetor. When you're ready to store your bike, turn off the ignition and the petcock, but leave the treated fuel in the lines and carburetor.

## MOTOR OIL

Contaminants trapped in used oil can etch engine bearings and settle out over the winter, forming a sticky goo. So, be sure to give your motorcycle a thorough oil change. After replacing the oil filter and draining the warm oil, be sure to add Genuine Harley-Davidson® Motor Oil, which is specially formulated for air-cooled engines. Do not store the bike without oil as this invites corrosion.

## SPARK PLUGS/CYLINDERS

Remove the spark plugs and squirt approximately one ounce of Harley-Davidson® Oil onto the walls of each cylinder through the spark plug holes. Replace spark plugs. With the transmission in neutral, activate the starter motor for several seconds to distribute the oil over the cylinder wall to inhibit corrosion, but do not start the engine.

## CLEANING

A clean bike is the key to longevity. So, give it a thorough cleaning. Hose it down and wash it with Harley® Sun Wash, which will keep road grime and insect parts from eating at various surfaces during its big sleep. Avoid spraying water directly into the muffler. If the baffles get wet and are not dried through operation, internal rust could form. Also, don't spray water directly into the air cleaner housing. If the air cleaner becomes saturated it could act as a choke making it difficult to start your motorcycle. We suggest drying your bike with a Soft Drying Towel. Clean its polished aluminum and stainless surfaces with Harley® Bright Chrome Cleaner. Finish up with a coat of Harley® Glaze to polish and seal painted and chrome surfaces.

## **TIRES**

Using an air-pressure gauge, make sure there is enough air in the tires. This helps keep them from developing problems while the motorcycle is stored. While in storage, don't allow hours of direct sunlight to contract tires. This dries out the tires prematurely and causes sidewall cracking. Also, due to advanced tire technology, motorcycle tires don't need to rest on blocks while the bike is in storage.

## **THE NASTY COVER UP**

While its a good idea to use a bike cover, it's folklore that a big plastic sheet is acceptable protection. Plastic will hold in moisture over winter, promoting corrosion, and if it's breezy, the constant fluttering of that stiff, cold material against the bike can scuff painted and polished surfaces.

## **DRIVE BELT OR CHAIN**

Adjust the rear drive belt. If your Harley® motorcycle is an older model, adjust the rear chain and lube it with Chain Lube Plus. Wipe off the excess lube.

## **BATTERY**

Winter storage is notoriously tough on batteries. Non-use can render them incapable of holding a charge. In fact, it's been common for uninformed riders to have to purchase a new battery every spring. To keep this from happening, Harley-Davidson now offers a product called Battery Tender- an intelligent battery charger that can remain plugged in and hooked up to the battery all winter. It will maintain a battery in a charged condition indefinitely. Unlike a conventional trickle charger, the Battery Tender senses battery condition and shuts off periodically so it will not over charge. Also, a fully charged battery is not likely to freeze during typical winter weather, so it is not necessary to remove the battery from the motorcycle. Unless you have a sealed battery, replenish the electrolyte to proper level with distilled water before charging. If you do not use the Battery Tender, at least follow these instructions: Always work with a battery in a well-ventilated area away from sparks and flames. Keep in mind that battery acid will harm exposed skin and paint. Keep the battery from freezing and charge it every 3 or 4 weeks throughout winter. Replenish electrolyte with distilled water. Refer to your owners manual for model specific battery information.

## COVER

The best covers are both porous (so moisture can escape to avoid corrosion) and soft (to avoid scratching). Your Harley-Davidson dealer offers covers specifically made for H-D® motorcycles that will protect your bike all winter!

## ABSOLUTE DEATH

Every few weeks throughout the winter, some well-meaning riders start their bikes and run them for a few minutes, thinking they're doing "a good thing" because they're circulating oil. BUT periodic cold starts dump raw gas into the engine past the choke, which washes oil off cylinder walls- exposing them to corrosion. The raw gas can seep past the rings and mix with engine oil, where it gets stirred up with the condensation and promotes acid formation. Finally, this practice is tough on the battery and starter. with this said, don't be afraid to take a ride on a rare warm winter weekend. Warming the bike fully helps re-charge the battery, circulate the oil and vaporize the condensation. Just be sure your license and insurance are current!

## SHOPPING GUIDE

<b>Product</b>	<b>Part #</b>
Harley® Sun Wash	94659-98
Soft Drying Towel	94791-01
Harley® Bright Chrome Cleaner	94683-99
Harley® Glaze Polish & Sealant	99701-84
Chain Lube Plus	99865-81A
Belt Tension Tester Tool	40006-85
Air Pressure Gauge	75008-02A
HD® Battery Tender Automatic	94654-98A
Breathable Storage Cover	98716-87A
HD® Motor Oil	
HD® Oil Filter	
Classic Motor Parts Oil Filter	



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