



Winter Riding and Storage Tips

If you are planning on putting your bike away for the winter here are a few useful tips for ensuring it remains in good condition: (For those continuing to ride throughout the winter see list at end)

1. Thoroughly clean your bike using a quality degreaser, pressure or hand wash. If using a pressure washer avoid the bikes ECU unit, instruments and electrics.
2. Thoroughly dry the bike
3. Lubricate joints, pivot points, suspension linkages and chain, then spray the bike with an anti corrosion fluid ensuring you avoid brakes, callipers and discs.
4. Ideally put the bike on paddock stands to help prevent the tyres from squaring by being in one point too long, if you don't have paddock stands then it is worth moving the bike a little regularly
5. Either remove the bikes battery or place on a trickle charger
6. Unleaded fuel can degrade in a matter of weeks, so run the fuel low and then add a stabilising fuel additive, top up and run for a little while to ensure additive is in the system
7. Use a breathable bike cover for extra protection.

For those of you who continue to ride throughout the winter here are a few tips for keeping your bike in good condition over the salt infested coming months:

1. Check tyre pressures weekly, and view condition of the tyres regularly
2. Check oil, water, brake fluid, battery (worth investing in a trickle charger to help maintain battery condition), lights and fuel (you don't want to run out when cold and wet)
3. Keep warm; you will function more safely at brain and fingertip levels. It's best to use multi layers of thinner clothing rather than a few chunky garments. (I wear thin multi layer undergarments that take moisture away from the body, then leathers and waterproofs. Under gloves help and it's worth carrying a spare set of gloves) same principles apply with socks.
4. Ensure your chain is adjusted correctly and is regularly cleaned and lubricated
5. After riding on salt infested roads, a quick hose down with cold water prior to putting away, will help rinse off much of the corrosive material. There are also plenty of good products out there that can be applied to all metal work when clean and dry that help protect against road grime and salt.
6. Always ensure your lights are on if your bike was made prior to lights being hard wired on permanently.
7. Have cleaning product to hand for your visor as road spray is an issue.
8. Ride smoothly, give yourself more time to stop and allow extra time to get to your destination.

There is no reason why winter riding can't be enjoyable and help add to your skill; I like the saying "there's no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing". Enjoy and be safe.

If you have been unfortunate enough to be involved in an accident or you would just like to know more about any of our services including: Replacement bikes, repairs, servicing, storage, claims management, access to our specialist bike law firms, please feel free to give us a ring on 0845 803 3388, or visit our website www.bldgroup.co.uk



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