

BE PREPARED – FOR A SAFE RIDE!



Québec 

For an **enjoyable** and **safe ride**, make sure to:

- properly inspect and maintain your motorcycle;
- master motorcycle operating techniques;
- get to know your motorcycle gradually by making short trips;
- be extra careful at intersections;
- obey the speed limits and adapt your riding to road conditions.

Remember:

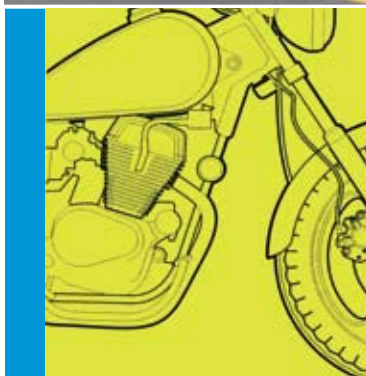
- 36% of motorcycle owners involved in a fatal accident had acquired their motorcycle in the same year.
- almost 40% of fatal accidents involving a motorcycle and an automobile occur at intersections.
- 42% of fatal motorcycle accidents involve no other vehicle. These accidents mostly occur in curves and speed is often a factor.



To prepare for your ride

CHECK THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- ☐ tires (pressure, tread, general condition);
- ☐ wheels (rims, cracks, defects);
- ☐ brakes (leaks, fluid level, amount of slack, operation of lever and pedal);
- ☐ indicators and telltales (operation);
- ☐ clutch lever and throttle (smooth and easy operation, adjustment);
- ☐ control and indicator cables and covers (signs of damage);
- ☐ lights (position, operation, cleanliness);
- ☐ horn (operation);
- ☐ rear-view mirrors (position, general condition);
- ☐ nuts and bolts (in place, tighten as needed);
- ☐ fuel, oil and coolant (levels, leaks).



Periodically check

PERIODICALLY CHECK OR REPLACE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

Motor oil

- ☐ check the level;
- ☐ change as needed.

Oil filter

- ☐ replace with every oil change.

Air filter

- ☐ clean or replace.

Coolant

- ☐ check the level;
- ☐ check for leaks;
- ☐ change as needed.

Carburetor

- ☐ check and adjust.

Fuel tank, tap and lines

- ☐ check and clean.

Spark plugs

- ☐ clean and change as needed.

Brakes

- ☐ check working order;
- ☐ fluid level;
- ☐ check for leaks;
- ☐ check wear indicator and brake pads.

Clutch | depending on the case:

- ☐ adjust the cable or
- ☐ check fluid level.

Front fork

- ☐ adjust shock absorber (if available);
- ☐ verify working order and check for oil leaks.

Rear shock absorber

- ☐ adjust damping;
- ☐ verify working order and check for oil leaks.

Wheels

- ☐ check spokes and rims.

Chain

- ☐ check alignment, lubrication and tension;
- ☐ clean and lubricate with appropriate lubricant (see owner's manual).

Fan belt

- ☐ check alignment and tension.

Drive shaft

- ☐ check for oil leaks and drain when needed.

Side stand

- ☐ verify working order and spring;
- ☐ lubricate as needed.



Photos: M. Michel Julien, Chaudière-Appalaches

WARNING SIGNS SUCH AS NOISE, VIBRATIONS, LOSS OF POWER OR OIL LEAKS INDICATE A DEFECT. THE CAUSE MUST BE FOUND AND REPAIRS MADE AS NEEDED.

Notes:

1. For more information, read the following guide: *Operating a Motorcycle*, 2008 Edition, Les publications du Québec, gouvernement du Québec, pages 40 to 46.
2. The information presented above is not intended as a substitute for the owner's manual, which contains specific data for each type of motorcycle.

Mastering motorcycle riding techniques

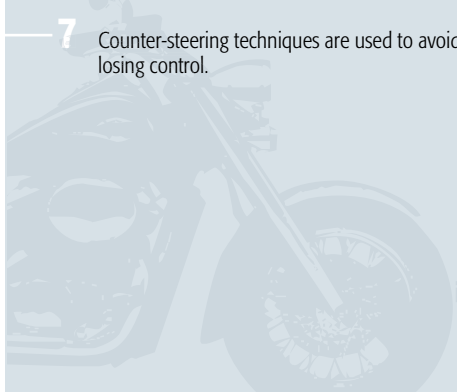
For each of the following statements,
answer YES or NO according
to your experience:

- 1 I sometimes have trouble maintaining the balance of my motorcycle at low speed. _____
- 2 I have trouble stopping my motorcycle at intersections. _____
- 3 When I want to start moving forward on a hill, my motorcycle rolls backwards and the motor sometimes stalls. _____
- 4 I have to put my feet on the ground to maintain the balance of my motorcycle at low speed. _____
- 5 I often have to slow down to negotiate a curve. _____
- 6 I have trouble controlling my motorcycle's trajectory in curves and I am often tailgated. _____
- 7 I sometimes have trouble going around obstacles (rocks, wood, animals etc.). _____

If you answered YES to one or more of these statements, a few hours of training at a recognized driving school or a refresher course would help you better master safe motorcycle riding techniques. This additional training could help lower your risk of being involved in a road accident.

Comments regarding the above statements:

- 1 To maintain balance on a motorcycle, you must assume the proper riding position and correctly use the handlebars, clutch and throttle.
- 2 To come to a complete stop, you must use the clutch, shift into first gear and apply the brakes. Keep your left foot on the ground and your right foot on the rear brake.
- 3 On a hill, you have to learn to properly synchronize throttle and clutch lever action.
- 4 At low speed, you must sit up straight, look far ahead and hug the fuel tank with your knees.
- 5 To properly negotiate a curve, you need to master counter-steering techniques and maintain a constant speed.
- 6 To control your path of travel in a curve, you need to position yourself to have a good view of the curve and look far ahead following the curve's direction. You must also obey the speed limit and have good riding skills.
- 7 Counter-steering techniques are used to avoid obstacles without losing control.



To reach us:

Fédération motocycliste du Québec (FMQ)

4875, boul. Métropolitain Est, Office 208
Montréal (Québec) H1R 3J2
Telephone: 514 252-8121
Fax: 514 252-7857

www.fmq.qc.ca

Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ)

P.O. Box 19600, succursale Terminus
333, boulevard Jean-Lesage
Québec (Québec) G1K 8J6

www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca

Version française disponible

