

Tips on Tire, Oil and Light Maintenance

by Tim, Owner of Bikers Bay
480-421-1404 or 602-923-0114



Motorcycle Tire Shortage???

Besides oil and filters the most often replaced part on your bike are tires. According to market share reports, your bike original equipment tires were probably Dunlops. Well if you have not heard, Dunlop is on strike and as of November 15th, 2006 they are producing a very limited number of motorcycle tires if any at all. There are various sizes of Dunlop tires that have already hit the national back order.

If you own a VTX1300 there are no front tires or if you are looking for Elites for your Goldwing you are out of luck, no tires, nada. But do not feel alone, inventory levels are getting lower or are depleted on many sizes. So either order a new set now, if available, or start checking out other tires brands. The major motorcycle brands and manufactures are Avons, Metzler, Michelin, Bridgestone, Pirelli and Continental. But which one is best? The answer to what is best for your bike depends on many factors such as; does the manufacture even make a tire that fits my bike, the type of bike you ride, how you ride, do you want to focus on performance or durability are all factors that you will need to consider. Our recommendations are Metzler, Avon or Continental for cruisers and add in Michelins for sport bikes. Sport bike and BMW riders you really need to check out Continental Road Attack tires!! But beware not all tires are created equally. Just finding a tire that matches you size is not enough. The technical specifications of your tire must be considered when moving to a non-OEM tire brand. When looking for a replacement tire, make sure you consider the speed rating, load rating and whether your tire is steel belted or radial. The codes stamped on the side of your tire will tell you all of this information, if you know how to read it. Each of the brands mentioned above have web sites with tire fitment charts and information sections discussing the specifications of their tires

If you can not find your tire or have questions, Bikers Bay staff, or any other shop that sells and install tires, will be able to help you find a replacement.

Ride Safe

Tim Brewer - Bikers Bay