

Tips on Tire, Oil and Light Maintenance

by Tim, Owner of Bikers Bay

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Let's talk brakes...

Of all the safety items on your bike, your brakes are one of the most important and often one of the most overlooked. Every week we will be doing a routine oil service or tire change and find brake pads that are ground down to the metal braking plate. Out-of-sight-out of mind seems to apply, especially with baggers. Severely worn brake pads will scar the rotors and turn a simple job into a major \$300 - \$500 repair. Unlike car rotors, motorcycle rotors can not be "turned" and do require replacement. In severe cases, a caliper rebuild may be required.

I am often asked "how long should my brakes last?" Brake wear is very different depending on the bike, your riding style and how you apply your brakes. The front brake accounts for 60% -70% of your braking power. Many of the bikes we see show that the rider is riding the rear brake. This will wear out rear brakes in 6k miles or less. Normal wear on brakes will range from 8k - 14k miles depending on the bike, brake material and the brake system.

Another issue with brake wear is a build up of brake pad dust in the calipers. This build up can cause the pad to "hang up" and not release from the rotor resulting in excessive and/or uneven wear. A simple maintenance tip is 1 time a month spray out the calipers with water or air. This will clean out the brake dust and keep your brakes functioning properly. Whenever you have your bike serviced, a good shop should perform a safety inspection and inform you if there are any issues, but you should know how to inspect your own brakes...if you do not...stop by any Bikers Bay location and we will walk you through a brake inspection.

See you soon,

Tim Brewer - Bikers Bay