

# T-CLOCS

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With the weather getting right for motorcycling, some folks are taking their bikes out of storage and getting ready to enjoy some great riding. (Nobody I know, as we ride all year round in our HOG chapter.) But it is a great time to give your

bike a good once over, anyway, so that you can enjoy incident free riding!

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) has come up with an acronym to help inspect your bike called T-CLOCS. An excellent way to make certain you don't miss anything whether it is raking the yard, cleaning the house or inspecting your motorcycle is to do it systematically. T-CLOCS is a great way to systematically go over your bike.

T – tires and wheels. Check the air pressure to make certain your tires are not underinflated. Improper tire pressure is the biggest cause of tire failure. Make certain the tire has enough tread on it, especially after you have been doing all those burnouts! Inspect the sidewalls for cracks and check the wheels for dents or loose spokes. While we are talking about tires, it is a good time to mention the importance of quality tires. There are a lot of accessories for your motorcycle you can pay little money for to purchase but tires should not be one of them. Your tires are the only thing between you and the pavement at 55 miles per hour in a tight curve so you want to make certain you have quality tires.

C – Controls. This includes your cables, levers, pedals, hoses, and throttle. Make certain your levers function properly. Roll your throttle all the way on then let it go. It should snap back into the original position. You certainly would not want to find out you have a stuck throttle at an intersection.

L – lights. Really, did I have to tell you that? Check all your lights: headlight, high and low beam, turn signals, brake lights, tag light (a lot of people don't even know it is required.) and marker lights. Since the ignition has to be on to check most of the lights, now would be a good time to test your horn as well.

O – oil and other fluids. Check to make certain the fluids are at the appropriate levels. You should also check for leaks. My bike does not have any leaks. It is just marking its territory.

C – chassis. Look for cracks at the gussets. I will save you the trouble of looking it up like I had to do, a gusset is where a bracket strengthens an angle on your frame. While you are there, see if the paint is lifting. Check your front forks and rear shocks. Check the tension on your chain or belt.

S – stands. (side stand and center stand) Check them to make certain there are no cracks. Make certain the springs are in place and have enough tension to hold the stand in place.

MSF recommends that you perform a pre-ride inspection each time you ride your bike. Checking for issues with your motorcycle before you ride will help keep you from being stranded on the side of the road and it will also help you avoid costly repairs. It will also foster a closer relationship with your bike. If that is possible...

Head and eyes!

MARK.