

CHECKLIST:

How to protect your motorbike in winter

Threats such as road salt corrosion and cold starts can knock substantial value off your machine over the course of just one winter. Taking care of your bike over the colder months doesn't have to be time-consuming, just follow our checklist below to help keep your bike in good condition

Dealing with salt

Salt spread on icy roads over winter can cause great damage to your machine.

- Use an anticorrosive spray**

Before winter sets in, spray your bike with an anti-corrosion spray. This will create a barrier between the bike's surface and the salt and water.

- Clean your bike**

- Battery**

Cold temperatures slow down the chemical reactions in a battery, meaning that more current is needed for the bike to function. Keep your battery charged – particularly if it has an alarm fitted.

- Chain**

Lube your bike little and often – ideally after a day's riding, so the lube has time to work into the nooks and crannies.

- Antifreeze**

On very cold nights the water in your radiator will freeze without coolant and antifreeze. If the fluid is not blue or dark green it means there may not be enough antifreeze present.

- Grease joints**

It's crucial to keep all your working parts greased in order to avoid a seizure. Some parts may need to be removed in order to grease them.

- Oil and filter change**

Protect your engine from cold starts with fresh, high-quality engine oil. Once oiled, ride your bike gently to give the motor time to warm up – before going faster.

Check your manufacturers handbook before carrying out any of the above.