Maintenance Fundamentals

Pre-ride Inspection

To ensure safety, it is your responsibility to perform a pre-ride inspection and make sure that any problem you find is corrected. A pre-ride inspection is a must, not only for safety, but because having a breakdown, or even a flat tire, can be a major inconvenience.

Before riding on-road, or returning to pavement after riding off-road, take a few moments to walk around your motorcycle and look for any loose parts or anything that appears unusual.

Also check the following.

- Tire tread wear and air pressures are within limits. ■ P. 103
- Lights, horn, and turn signals operate normally.
- Check the condition of the drive chain.
 Adjust slack and lubricate as needed.
 P. 100

Check the following items if you are carrying a passenger or cargo:

- Combined weight is within load limits.
 ▶ P. 196
- Cargo is secured properly.

Check the following items after you get on your motorcycle:

- Throttle action moves smoothly without binding. ■ P. 138
- Brake lever and pedal operate normally.
- Check the fuel level and refuel when needed.
 ■ P. 13, ■ P. 80
- Engine stop switch functions properly.
 ▶ P. 50