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Winterize Your Bike

1. Engines are best stored with a fresh oil change, and inside a weather-proof building or shed.
2. Check the battery, clean the battery terminals, and connect a Battery Tender or similar trickle-charger. If the bike has to remain outside, remove the battery and store it inside.
3. Lube the chain liberally, and wipe some oil on the fork sliders. Be careful not to get oil on the rotors or brake pads.
4. Be sure the tires are properly inflated, about 30-35 psi for most bikes. Also try to get the tires off the ground if the bike is inside. If you don't have stands or if the bike is stored outside, try to move it every few weeks to keep the tires from flat spotting.
5. The gas needs to be treated with a product called "Stabil", a fuel stabilizer, found in most automotive stores. This makes sure that the fuel will not break down while the bike is stored, which would leave a sticky, varnish-like residue that gives motorcycle shops so much work in the Spring. You will need to run the bike for 5 or 10 minutes after adding the fuel stabilizer to your fuel to be sure it flows into your carbs. Fuel injected bikes need only run 1-2 minutes. You will also want to drain the float bowls on carbureted bikes by unscrewing the small screw on the carb float bowl. Any fuel left in the bowls for more than two months will turn into a jet-clogging sludge that will cost you an expensive carb overhaul in the Spring. If you have a fuel injected bike, you can skip this step and move on to the next.
6. Be sure your tank is full to the top. Air has moisture, which causes rust in the tank—no air in the tank, no moisture.
7. If your bike has a liquid cooling system, check it's level and anti-freeze with a hydrometer. Drain, flush and replace anti-freeze if necessary. We do it every two years. Do not leave it low or empty, it will rust and corrode your cooling system.
8. Go ahead and check all the other fluids while you're at it!
9. Lube your cables. Lube suspension and pivot points. Give your bike a good once-over.

10. Your bike needs a thorough wash job before storage. Towel off excess water and blow dry with a leaf blower.
11. A cover is a nice touch, but be sure to remove it in a high wind if your bike has to remain outside. Bikes blow over much easier with a cover on them.
12. Make sure the bike is locked up and the registration and other papers are removed in the unfortunate event the bike is stolen.
13. Do not just run the engine without riding the bike during this period; you'll create condensation in the engine and combustion byproducts (acids, etc) in the oil. If you take the bike out for a ride, you'll want to get the bike up to temperature, so make sure you ride around for about an hour.

Equipment and supplies you may need to do this:

- ✓ Stabil, (fuel stabilizer) about \$4.00
- ✓ Bike cover, about \$60-92.00
- ✓ Rear stand, \$120-150.00
- ✓ Front stand, \$149.00
- ✓ Battery tender, \$38-75.00
- ✓ Oil, \$12-50.00
- ✓ Chain lube, about \$3.00

Total approximate cost: \$400-550.00