

<u>Engine</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Difficulty</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<b>Change engine oil &amp; filter</b>	Varies	1-2	Mileage between oil changes varies by motorcycle and type of oil used. Most import bikes recommend 4,000 miles between oil changes on conventional oil, and 8,000 miles between oil filter changes.
<b>Valve lash adjustment</b>	Varies	3-4	Normally requires an hour or two of work just to get to the valve covers. Be very careful when performing this procedure, as improperly adjusted valves can lead to serious engine damage. The difficulty of a valve adjustment also depends on the valve adjuster type. Turn-and-locknut valve adjusters only require a couple wrenches or a screwdriver and a set of feeler gauges. Shim-under-bucket adjusters require removing the camshafts, swapping shims with a dealer, and resetting the valve timing. If in doubt, have a shop perform this procedure.
<b>Carburetor/ throttle body synchronization</b>	Every other year, annually for 12,000+ miles/yr of riding	3	Is performed with a set of vacuum gauges. This procedure is essential for low-RPM and idle engine performance. The valves must be adjusted before performing this procedure.
<b>Change air filter</b>	Varies, annually for 12,000+ miles/yr of riding	1	
<b>Clean carburetors (carbureted bikes only)</b>	Every 3-4 years	3-4	This can be a difficult procedure, with lots of little parts that can be lost. The carburetors must also be re-synchronized after a cleaning. If in doubt, have a shop perform this procedure.
<b>Change coolant (water-cooled bikes only)</b>	Every other year, annually for warmer climates or 12,000+ miles/yr of riding	2	

<b>Check/replace coolant hoses</b>	Check annually, replace as needed	2	
<b>Change spark plugs</b>	Varies, annually for 12,000+ miles/yr of riding	1-2	Reading spark plugs can tell a rider a lot about how an engine is performing. There are a number of visual charts on the internet that can help with reading a spark plug. DO NOT overtighten spark plugs. A stripped spark plug hole can be a real pain to repair.
<b>Change fuel filter (if equipped)</b>	Every other year, annually for 12,000+ miles/yr of riding	1-2	
<b>Replace fuel line (carbureted bikes)</b>	Every other year, annually for 12,000+ miles/yr of riding	1	Most fuel-injected fuel lines are reinforced to withstand the pressure of a fuel-injection system, and do not need to be replaced regularly. Carbureted fuel lines and vacuum lines should be replaced regularly with new fuel line. Check to make sure the new fuel line's inner diameter is the same as the line being replaced.
<b>Check cam chain tension (manual tensioners only)</b>	6,000 miles	3	This is often best done by removing the valve cover(s) and the slack between the cam gears.
<b><u>Drivetrain</u></b>	<b><u>Frequency</u></b>	<b><u>Difficulty</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
<b>Adjust drive chain/belt</b>	4,000-5,000 miles	2	Be sure to adjust the chain evenly on both sides of a dual-sided swingarm. Chain alignment tools are available that help ensure the rear sprocket is lined up with the front sprocket.
<b>Replace drive chain/belt and sprockets (chain/belt drive bikes only)</b>	Varies, usually 15,000-30,000 miles with proper lubrication	3	Chains that use riveted master links require the use a chain tools, which are available as a kit. Most manuals recommend removing the swingarm to remove the chain. An easier way is to cut off the head of a chain pin, use the chain tools to push the pin out, then use the tools to press rivet the new chain's master link.

<b>Change final drive oil</b>	Once per season, possibly more often for 15,000+ miles in a year	1	
<b>Change transmission fluid (some models, mainly BMW R-bikes and Harleys)</b>	Check owner's manuals for change interval	1	
<b>Lubricate U-joint/splines</b>	Once per season or every tire change, whichever is more often	1-2	
<b><u>Wheels/Brakes/Suspension</u></b>	<b><u>Frequency</u></b>	<b><u>Difficulty</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
<b>Replace brake fluid</b>	Every other year, annually for 12,000+ miles/yr of riding	2	
<b>Replace brake pads</b>	As needed	1	Check pad life visually. Most brake pads have wear bars cut into them. When the empty columns are no longer visible, the pads are due for replacement.
<b>Replace brake rotors</b>	As needed	1	Check rotor life using a measuring calipers. Consult motorcycle manual for minimum rotor thickness.
<b>Replace brake lines</b>	Every four years for rubber lines, Replacement not necessary for braided steel lines	2	
<b>Replace tires/rebalance wheels</b>	As needed	1 & 4	Sportbike and sport-touring motorcycle tires can be difficult to remove and install due to the ultra-stiff sidewalls. If in doubt, have a shop remove and install tires. A motorcycle's wheels can be removed relatively easily and taken to a shop for tire replacement.

<b>Lubricate rear swingarm pivot points</b>	Check owner's manual for frequency	3	
<b>Replace fork oil</b>	Check owner's manual for frequency	2-3	
<b>Lubricate rear suspension points</b>	Annually	1	
<b>Check/replace wheel bearings</b>	Check annually, replace as needed	1-3	Wheel bearings are checked by having a wheel lifted above the ground, then attempting to rock the wheel side-to-side on the axle. Too much play indicates a worn bearing in need of replacement.
<b><u>Controls</u></b>	<b><u>Frequency</u></b>	<b><u>Difficulty</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
<b>Replace clutch fluid</b>	Every other year, annually for 12,000+ miles/yr of riding	2	
<b>Lubricate/adjust/replace clutch cable</b>	Lubricate annually, chance as needed	1	
<b>Lubricate lever pivot points</b>	Lubricate with grease annually	1	
<b>Lubricate/adjust/replace choke cable</b>	Lubricate annually, chance as needed	2	
<b>Lubricate speedometer/tachometer cable</b>	Lubricate annually, chance as needed	1	
<b>Lubricate/adjust throttle cables</b>	Lubricate annually, chance as needed	1	
<b><u>Electrical</u></b>	<b><u>Frequency</u></b>	<b><u>Difficulty</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
<b>Recharge/replace battery</b>	Test battery voltage regularly, or install voltmeter. Change as needed	1-2	

<b>Replace burned out bulbs for meters</b>	Check annually, replace as needed	2	
<b>Replace burned out headlight, tail light, or turn signal bulbs</b>	Check annually, replace as needed	1-2	

Difficulty Ratings:

1 = Easy

2 = Moderately difficult

3 = Difficult

4 = Best done by a shop