

# Tips to Help Store and Protect Your Bike

By: Kevin Manning  
Safety Officer

**H**ello fellow riders. Let's discuss a few storage tips that will help you keep your Harley healthy and ready for many years of riding.

- Clean and inspect your battery. If leaking or showing any bulge in the case, replace it.
- Don't attempt to keep your battery charged by periodically starting and running your bike while in storage. Short run cycles are actually harder on your motorcycle and battery than not starting it at all.
- Short run cycles can also leave moisture in the cylinder and exhaust increasing the possibility of corrosion.
- Use a smart charger or battery tender to maintain your battery at full charge capacity.

- Most experts recommend that you change the engine oil and filter. Fuels and acids present in dirty oil may accelerate the rate of corrosion.
- If applicable, check engine coolant and change if necessary.
- Fill up your fuel tank completely. A tank that is less than full may expose bare metal inside the tank to potential corrosion.
- Add fuel stabilizer to preserve fuel. Stale fuel can cause engine-starting problems and foul plugs.
- Clean and protect your bike's finish prior to storing.
- Cover your bike to protect it from impact, dust, dirt, and all weather elements. Be careful and use a breathable cover to help prevent

moisture from becoming trapped and causing corrosion.

- Store your Harley in a safe location. Never store near agriculture fertilizers, swimming pool chemicals, salts, icy roadways, water softeners, or any other chemically reactive compounds. Chemicals such as these emit caustic gases that may accelerate corrosion.
- Most Harley dealerships offer winter storage packages and can provide additional advice about protection and storage.
- Remember, storage time is a great time to have scheduled maintenance and/or major customizations done! Until next time, have a Happy Thanksgiving and be safe my friends. 🍂

**EVEN BEASTS NEED BEAUTY SLEEP**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**BOARDTRACKER HARLEY-DAVIDSON  
SWISS VALLEY HARLEY-DAVIDSON**

**WINTER STORAGE**

**OCTOBER 16, 2017-APRIL 16, 2018**

Boardtracker Harley-Davidson®  
3223 N. Pontiac Dr.  
Janesville, WI 53545  
Service: 608.314.1750  
service@boardtrackerhd.com

Swiss Valley Harley-Davidson®  
129 West 6th St.  
Monroe, WI 53566  
Service: 608.325.8055  
service@swissvalleyhd.com

[www.boardtrackerhd.com](http://www.boardtrackerhd.com)