

Buying Your First Bike

Before you head out to the nearest dealership to make this important purchase, there are some questions that need to be honestly considered. When you have contemplated each question and have honestly answered, then you are ready to explore the purchase of a bike.

Considering Your Experience

If you have never ridden or if it has been years since your last riding experience, we suggest you take the Motorcycle Safety Class. This class will give instruction for safe riding on all road conditions, provide an overview of the motorcycle rules in your state, and give you some saddle time as you consider whether riding is for you. Contact your local community college or a motorcycle dealership in your area for a class near you.

- Do I know how to ride?
- Have I taken a Motorcycle Safety Class?
- Have I ridden in the past?
- How much saddle time do I have?
- How long has it been since I last rode?

Considering Your Finances

Motorcycles are big investments. The following questions should be carefully and honestly addressed. If your finances are not sound, and you cannot afford the bike, maintenance, insurance, or any of the costs associated with the purchase of a bike, it is probably not wise to increase your financial burden at this time. Consider the following questions before you purchase a bike:

- How will I pay for this purchase?
- Can I financially afford purchasing a motorcycle at this time?
- Do I have the funds needed for maintenance and upkeep?
- Can I afford the extra expense of motorcycle insurance?
- Do I have the proper riding attire?

Considering Your Family

When contemplating the purchase of motorcycle, the needs and desires of your family must always come first. If you have small children at home, you should consider postponing the purchase of a bike until the children are older. If your spouse is not on board with this purchase, it may be best to delay until the issue can be mutually resolved. Your relationship with your spouse is of greater importance than your need for a motorcycle. Answers to the following questions should definitely play a role in your decision to purchase a bike.

- Is your spouse or parents agreeable to this purchase?
- Do you have small children in the home?

Considering Your Needs

Your riding plans should dictate the type of motorcycle you need to purchase. If your intent is to take long trips across the country, then you would want to consider a bike with comfort in mind. If you plan on riding with a passenger, then you must also consider their comfort as well. Ask:

- Do I plan on riding solo or two-up?
- Do I plan on long rides across the country or just scooting around town?

Considering Your Personal Health

Riding motorcycles is risky business. You must first decide if you are willing to take the risks associated with riding. You may be an extremely safe rider, but you have to acknowledge that the person in their 4-wheeled vehicle will also play a role in your safety. If you are naturally a nervous individual, adding the stress of bike riding may not lead to a completely enjoyable ride. If you compound health issues with the risks associated with riding, it may lead to unwanted consequences for you, your passenger or those you encounter along the way. Consider the following:

- How is your health?
- Are you willing to take the risks associated with riding a motorcycle?

Have fun in your search for a bike . . . and be safe as you ride!