

## Chain & bike lubrication

Bicycles consist of many components where metal moves against metal. To minimise friction and wear, and to ensure that your bike runs smoothly, lubricating your bike is an essential part of any maintenance routine.

Although any lubricant is better than no lubricant, bicycles generally perform better if you use specifically designed lubes. As there are many products on the market, and even more opinions on which are best, sometimes the most difficult step to lubing your bike is choosing which product you'll use. In choosing a lube however, apart from your budget, you'll need to consider the type of bike you ride and the predominant conditions you find yourself riding in.

### Types of lube

#### Wet

- Easy to apply.
- Smooth and quiet running of chain.
- Doesn't wash out easily – longer life span. Better lube choice if riding in predominantly wet conditions.
- Readily attracts dust, grit and dirt. May need to clean chain more regularly.

#### Dry

- Easy to apply.
- Creates a dry film on the chain's surface.
- Slightly 'noisier' running of chain than wet lube.
- Doesn't easily attract dust, grit and dirt - generally runs cleaner.
- Washes out easily. Need to reapply lube more regularly, especially after riding in wet conditions.

#### Wax

- Doesn't easily attract dust, grit and dirt.
- More care required in application.
- Must be applied to a completely clean chain so wax can bond properly with

metal. Before application, must shake bottle until wax is completely mixed with applicator fluid.

- After first application, wipe chain down until completely dry to remove dispersing agent. Take bike for a short ride then repeat process. Wax clings to metal and itself - over time gradual build up of wax on chain.
- With each application, dispersing agent helps flush out any accumulated dirt or grit – simultaneous lubrication and minor chain cleaning.
- For best results, allow a couple of hours after applying before riding.

### Other important points

- Frequency of chain lube applications is dependant on the type of product used and general riding duration & conditions. Read and follow product directions carefully. Every 4 - 6 rides is a good general rule. You can't damage the chain by lubricating more often than required.
- If deciding to try a different lube, start with a clean chain. Different products don't always interact well and bond more effectively to a clean chain.
- For wet lubes, apply drops of lubricant to each individual link. Reduces excess run off and ensures even application. Always wipe any excess.
- If using a spray product, be aware of overspray onto wheel rims and brake pads, disc brakes and rotors.

### Component lubrication

Along with chains, other bike components that should be lubricated on a monthly basis are derailleurs, brakes, caliper pivots, gear and brake cables, clipless pedals and suspension units – generally anywhere on your bike where metal is moving against metal.

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