HOW TO DO A MOTORCYCLE SAFETY CHECK
WHAT YOU’LL NEED

- Gloves
- Front and rear stands
- Tyre pressure gauge
- Rags
- First aid kit
1 GET READY

Get the motorcycle in a safe place, on flat and solid ground with space to move around it. Also, make sure that the motorcycle has cooled down, as you don’t want to burn yourself doing the checks.

2 CHECK THE TYRES

Starting with the front tyre, check that the tyre pressure is in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations. Also rotate the wheel and look for any damage to the tyre, including embedded nails.

Do the same tyre pressure and condition check for the rear wheel.

3 CHECK THE FRONT OF THE MOTORCYCLE

Now let’s check that everything is in order around the front wheel and spokes.

With your fingers, try and turn the front axle and the lower pinch bolts, making sure they are nice and tight.
On the suspension, look around the front fork seals to see whether there’s any leaking fork oil. Then ensure that the triple clamp bolts are tightly fixed. Remember to check both the left and right-hand side.

Run your fingers along the brake cables, checking they are in good condition and don’t have any nicks or abrasions.

Moving to the side of the motorcycle, check the oil level, making sure the motorcycle is levelled for an accurate reading before you do so.
Have a look around the engine for any leaks or damage and check the radiator pipes aren’t bulging, then check that the radiator fluid is full.

Give the foot pegs a shake to make sure they’re secure.

Put the gear shifter and brake pedal through their paces, making sure they are working well and not loose or catching.
10 CHECK THE CHAIN
Take a look at the chain to make sure it’s not too slack or too tight and is well lubricated.
Check the motorcycle manual, or there might be a sticker on the motorcycle, for the correct drive-chain slack information.
For guidance on how to lubricate, see our ‘How to lubricate a motorcycle chain’ guide.

11 CHECK THE EXHAUST
Give the exhaust a check over and the silencer a shake to make sure it’s firmly attached.

12 CHECK THE CLUTCH
Get on to your motorcycle and pull back both the clutch and brake lever to ensure they operate correctly. There needs to be a few millimetres of play in the clutch cable.
13 | CHECK THE THROTTLE

Give the throttle a twist and make sure it rotates smoothly before snapping closed when you let go.

14 | CHECK THE FUEL

Give the fuel level a quick check on the fuel gauge.

15 | CHECK THE LIGHTS

Turn on the motorcycle and check all the lights, including the brake light, left and right indicators, sidelights and headlights.
16 | CHECK THE THROTTLE

Give the horn a quick blast to make sure it’s working.

17 | CHECK THE FUEL

Finally, it’s a good idea to have a helmet, protective clothing and a well-stocked first aid kit. Check where they are and that everything is up to date.