

8 Tips to Help You Maintain Your Snowmobile

Is winter your favorite season of the year? Do you find yourself outside more than inside on those cold winter days? If you imagine yourself out in the snow having fun, then it's probable that you'd have fun on a snowmobile.

Four Helpful Tips To Aid You In Gearing Your Snowmobile Up

Now it's time for the season to begin. Before you crank up your snowmobile, you'll want to do a few things. Here are four helpful tips to assist you with getting ready for the winter season.



Gearing Your Snowmobile Up Tip #1 - Pull The Rope

When you're ready to go out on your snowmobile, you'll want to pull on the device's start rope a few times so that you can lubricate the cylinder walls where the spark plugs go. Reinsert the used spark plugs or new ones into your machine.

Gearing Your Snowmobile Up Tip #2 - Check Fluids

Like your vehicle before you go out on a road trip, check the fluids in your snowmobile. If you don't, you can cause severe damage to the snowmobile's engine.

Gearing Your Snowmobile Up Tip #3 - Looking Over Your Snowmobile

Always check your snowmobile for nicked or scratched paint and retouch it with rust-resistant paint. If you decide not to fix this problem, it can become a bigger and wider problem down the road.

Gearing Your Snowmobile Up Tip #4 - Wax

Be sure to wax your snowmobile and reattach your seat correctly. When you've done all this, you're ready to go for your first snowmobile ride of the winter season.

Four Helpful Tips To Aid You In Storing Your Snowmobile

Snowmobiles are a wonderful piece of wintertime equipment that only get used for about four to five months out of the calendar year. That means you have to store it for the remainder months. If you have decided you want to purchase a snowmobile, it's imperative you know the proper cautions in storing it for those warmer, summertime months so that it is ready to go when you're ready to ride it in the winter. In order to do this, you'll need to follow some simple and helpful tips to aid you in maintaining your snowmobile for when the snow finally falls where you live.

Storing Snowmobiles Tip #1 - Climate Controlled

It's vitally important to store your snowmobile in a place that is climate controlled. You can find many storage companies that offer this kind of service. If you don't have one as an option, locate a place with as little of a temperature change as possible. You don't want condensation building up on your snowmobile parts.

Storing Snowmobile Tip #2 - Before Storing Your Snowmobile

Make sure you spray your snowmobile down with WD-40 so the parts stay well lubricated and protected during the months you won't be using it. Afterward, cover your snowmobile with some kind of protective tarp.

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Storing Snowmobile Tip #3 - Fuel Issues

There is no unanimous consensus about what exactly to do about the fuel situation in snowmobiles. However, there are several theories floating around about what to do.

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Some snowmobile owners argue that having a full gas tank increases the likelihood of condensation and corrosion. Others say that fuel will lose its effectiveness when it's left for far too long. Still others believe that an empty gas tank prevents the fuel from failing.

However, if you own a snowmobile that has oil mixed in the fuel, it could separate during the summer months, causing it to clog certain fuel parts. It is in your best interest to read your owner's manual so you know exactly what the manufacturer actually recommends.

Storing Snowmobile Tip #4 - Looking Over The Mechanics

Before you cover your snowmobile for those summer months, do some checking on those mechanical parts. It's not uncommon for them to be overlooked at the start of the season, so make sure you look at it before storing it. Be sure that every nut and bolt is on tightly. Make note of missing parts or parts that will need repairing. You'll want to repair these before you store it.

Make sure to remove spark plugs. In addition, add a miniscule amount of two-cycle engine oil in the empty spark plug cylinders to avoid rusting. Use an old rag to plug up pipes to avoid chances of condensation forming on the inside. You also want to remove the snowmobile seat so no rodents have an opportunity to make a nest.

If you can follow these eight before and after tips on how to store and maintain your snowmobile, you'll be having fun in the snow all season long. If you are unsure at any time what to do, refer back to the owner's manual to give you an idea.

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an acceptable reach from your body. Stretching to reach the handlebars is not an effective method, and neither is sitting too close so that you are scrunched up against them.

Keeping the handlebars at arms length, as long as it is a comfortable distance, is ideal. Also, place your feet in the stirrups that sit on the front lower area of the snowmobile. Get the feel for the stirrups and do not take your feet out of them when you are snowmobiling. They are designed to help you stay in control of the machinery when you make sharp turns on the snowy terrain.

On the handlebars, find the throttle. This will typically be a lever that is on the

Snowmobile Basics for Beginners

Once a person gets over their distaste for winter weather conditions, operating a snowmobile can be an addictive winter sport. Being in the wide-open landscape that is covered by a fresh coating of white, pristine powder can be breathtaking and even enthralling for first-time snowmobilers.

It is also a great way for families to spend time together while remaining active during the winter months instead of gathering around the television for a few hours every night. After learning the basics of operating a snowmobile, conquering the white blanket of fresh snow will be an exhilarating activity that families and

friends will undoubtedly cherish together.

The first thing to always remember is to wear your safety gear before operating your snowmobile. Safety equipment consists of a regulation helmet and a pair of goggles designed for cold weather activities. It is important to make sure this equipment is fastened correctly or else it could cause problems during the snowmobiling excursion.

It is also a good idea to wear a snowmobile suit that is specifically designed to protect the body from the frigid elements of winter, such as a waterproof inner lining so snowmobile riders do not suffer from a case of hypothermia. A good pair of gloves is also vital because the hands will be controlling most of the actions of the machinery. Cold hands do not make for quick reactions, so winter gloves are an absolute essential.

Next, get comfortable with the machinery. Sit on it, move around, and get familiar with the feel of the snowmobile's intricate details. Find the right distance on the seat so that the handlebars are within

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right side of the snowmobile's handlebar. Use your thumb to control the throttle, which negotiates the amount of speed desired.

Similarly, on the left, you will generally find the brake lever on the handlebar. It does not take much pressure to pull the brake lever in order to slow down your snowmobile.

For rides on softer and less compact snow trails, releasing pressure from the throttle will slow your snowmobile quickly. On more compact and smoother snow

trails, however, you will need to apply pressure to the brake lever to achieve a stop. On ice, as you would in a vehicle, pumping the brakes by applying and releasing pressure on the brake lever will result in a smoother and typically safer stop on a snowmobile.

Now that you have found the throttle and the brake (the two most important parts of any vehicle), you are ready to begin moving. To do this, apply pressure to the throttle.

Apply ample pressure to slightly rev the snowmobiles engine until it begins to move. As you move forward, turn the han-

dlebars into the direction you want to travel.

When making a sharper and faster turn, it is best to lean into the turn. For instance, if you are making a sharp right turn, lean your body to the right without removing your feet from the stirrups. The stirrups help to stabilize your body while helping to prevent the rider from slipping off of the machine.

For beginners, ride your snowmobile on the trails that have been packed and already traveled until you get the feel for snowmobiling. Veering off into unpacked snow might get you stuck or even cause an

accident with another snowmobiler.

Following these basic steps is essential for first-time and inexperienced snowmobilers to successfully practice this fun winter sport. As always, safety is the first issue to be addressed before operating any machinery.

But above the safety precautions, knowing how to turn and lean into a turn is important for operating any snowmobile safely. Once learned, it will most likely be a winter pastime that will be enjoyed for many frigid seasons to come.

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Tips for Safe Snowmobiling

Winter is quickly approaching, and thousands of people worldwide are excited about the upcoming opportunity to go snowmobiling. If you have never tried this exciting winter sport, perhaps this is the year that you will.

As with all sports associated with the cold and snowy season, there are certain risks involved in snowmobiling. But if you take the time to learn how to do it and are content to gradually master it, you will find that it is one of the more enjoyable activities that take place during this season.

Riding a snowmobile is no different than riding a motorcycle – except, of course, you have skis instead of wheels.

You may think that snow would be softer than asphalt should you fall off, but the packed trail and ice can leave you with bruises. Make sure that you wear your helmet and always secure the strap under your chin for a snug fit.

The helmet shouldn't be so loose that you can wiggle it on your head, but it shouldn't be so tight that it is uncomfortable.

Next, sit down on the sled. The best way to figure out how far from the handlebars you should be is to close your eyes and raise your hands. Bring them down slowly; if they fall naturally onto the grips, then you have the proper distance. You should be comfortable enough that you are neither over-reaching nor feeling cramped.

Next, place your feet under the stirrups located on the lower front section of the vehicle. Having your feet in this secured position will allow you better control on the turns and help to keep you on the sled. Now go ahead and turn that engine on!

After you have properly positioned yourself on the machine, find the throttle. It will be on the right side of the handlebar. You will be able to control the speed of the

snowmobile by using the thumb on your right hand. Of course, just as you want to go, you'll eventually want to stop. You will be able to achieve this by using the brake lever, located on the left side of the handlebar.

It is helpful to know that stopping on hard-packed, more solid snow is more difficult than lighter, softer snow. Just as you do while driving a car on ice, gently pump your brakes. Be sure to give the motor a good amount of gas to get moving. From that point on, control the snowmobile in much the same way that you would command a bicycle.

Use your handlebars to move left and right, keeping in mind that the ease with which you turn is based primarily on the speed at which you are traveling. Turns are always easier when moving at a higher speed. Remember to al-

ways lean to the inside of a turn, as this will help the sled stay on both skis.

There is a saying among bikers: "There are those who have fallen and those who are just waiting to take a fall." In other words, everyone at some point takes a spill, and this also applies to snowmobilers. Keep in mind that falling off will happen sooner or later. You shouldn't preoccupy yourself with the event of this happening; you simply want to be prepared in the event that it does.

Keep your eyes open (and of course, alcohol and any motorized vehicle do not mix!) and watch out for other snowmobilers. Maintain a distance of at least 150 feet between you and other riders. If you follow these steps, you should have an enjoyable experience this winter.

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Getting an ATV: 15 Things to Check Before You Buy

Are you in the market for an all-terrain vehicle (ATV)? An ATV can provide you with years of fun outdoors, but if you don't know what to look for, you're in for a giant headache. This ATV buyer's guide will provide you with 15 things to check before you buy. Whether you're a seasoned expert or just getting started, the following will be beneficial to you.

When it comes to shopping for an ATV, there are a ton of things you should keep in mind so you can get the best possible machine for your dollar. Here is a list of 15 things to look for when shopping for an ATV or quad.

1. Take it for a ride. It is an ALL terrain vehicle, right? So, you should pretty much be able to take it for a test drive just about anywhere. If the seller has a problem with you taking it out for a spin, there's probably something wrong with it.

2. Check the head lights, tail lights, engine shut off switch, and key switch. All should be in perfect working order.

3. Check the hand, foot, and parking brakes. Do they operate smoothly or stick? Be sure to check for damaged or cracked cables.

4. Move the handlebars back and forth. This will help you identify worn tie rod ends.

5. Remove the seat and take the air box lid off. A clean air box and filter is a good sign – if there's water in it, the engine could be damaged.

6. Check for worn out tires or tires full of plugs. If they are worn or plugged a lot, it's not necessarily a problem, but it could get you a discount on the price.

7. Check the exhaust to make sure

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