

Refer to *Important Safety Precautions* on page 33.

To safely operate your motorcycle, your tires must be the proper type and size, in good condition with adequate tread, and correctly inflated for the load you are carrying.

## ⚠ WARNING

Using tires that are excessively worn or improperly inflated can cause a crash in which you can be seriously hurt or killed.

Follow all instructions in this owner's manual regarding tire inflation and maintenance.

The following pages give detailed information on how and when to check your air pressure, how to inspect your tires for wear and damage, and our recommendations on tire repair and replacement.

## Air Pressure

Properly inflated tires provide the best combination of handling, tread life, and riding comfort. Generally, underinflated tires wear unevenly, adversely affect handling, and are more likely to fail from being overheated. Underinflated tires can also cause wheel damage on hard terrain. Overinflated tires make your motorcycle ride harshly, are more prone to damage from surface hazards, and wear unevenly.

Make sure the valve stem caps are secure. If necessary, install new caps.

Use an accurate gauge to measure the air pressure in your tires before each off-road ride and whenever you return to pavement after riding off-road. If you only ride on pavement, check the

pressure at least once a month and at any other time you think the tires might be low.

Always check air pressure when your tires are “cold.” If you check air pressure when your tires are “warm” — even if your motorcycle has only been ridden for a few miles — the readings will be higher. If you let air out of warm tires to match the recommended cold pressures, the tires will be underinflated.

The correct “cold” tire pressures are:

Front	22 psi (150 kPa, 1.50 kgf/cm <sup>2</sup> )
Rear	22 psi (150 kPa, 1.50 kgf/cm <sup>2</sup> )

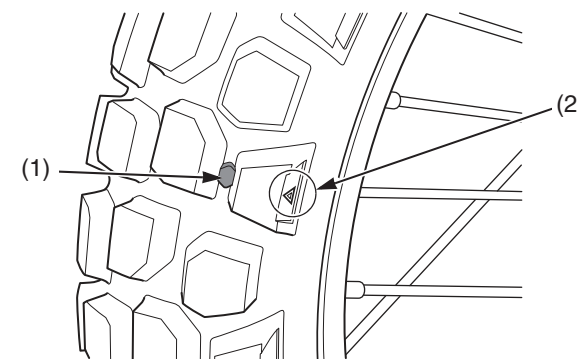
If you decide to adjust tire pressures for a particular riding condition, make changes a little at a time.

## Inspection

Take time to inspect your tires and wheels before you ride.

- Inspect carefully for bumps or bulges in the side of the tire or the tread. Replace any tire that has a bump or bulge.
- Look closely for cuts, slits, or cracks in the tires. Replace a tire if you can see fabric or cord.
- Check for rocks or other objects embedded in the tire or tread. Remove any objects.
- Check the position of both valve stems. A tilted valve stem indicates the tube is slipping inside the tire or the tire is slipping on the rim.

## Tread Wear



- (1) wear indicator  
(2) wear indicator location mark

Also, if you hit a pothole or hard object while riding, pull to the side of the road as soon as you safely can and carefully inspect the tires for damage.

For the best performance, you should replace a tire before the tread depth at the center reaches the following limits:

Front	0.12 in (3.0 mm)
Rear	0.12 in (3.0 mm)

If the wear indicators are visible, replace the tire immediately as it is no longer safe.

## Tube Replacement

If a tube is punctured or damaged, you should replace it as soon as possible. A repaired tube may not have the same reliability as a new one, and it may fail while you are riding.

Use a replacement tube equivalent to the original.