



800-277-5089

www.motoprosuspension.com

Warning: Servicing and tuning motorcycle suspension requires special tools and knowledge. If you are unfamiliar with the proper techniques STOP and have a qualified suspension technician complete the installation.

BLEEDING FORKS

I frequently have customers inquire about the proper way to bleed or equalize their forks. Let's take the mystery out of this process and outline the proper procedure. The reason we want to bleed out the over pressure in our forks is simple. Air buildup in your forks increases harshness and the likelihood of seal leakage. Many riders bleed their forks improperly. The correct procedure is outlined below. This process should be performed at the start of every ride and approximately half way through the ride if possible.

The vast majority of forks contain a pair of steel springs and an engineered volume of air that acts as an air spring. The air spring is tuned by varying the amount of oil in the fork. If the trapped air is allowed to "pump up" in effect the spring rate in the forks has increased. This will cause noticeable harshness and deflection that becomes increasingly worse as pressure increases. Now for the solution.

If your bike does not have the push button type bleeders that is fantastic, please do not install them. I will explain why later. With the FRONT WHEEL OFF THE GROUND carefully loosen the bleed screw and listen for the sound of air moving past the screw. Once the hissing sound stops retighten the screw. Snug is good, you will be loosening this screw often so use the proper size screw driver. Never bleed the forks when the front wheel has any load on it. The forks MUST BE FULLY EXTENDED until the bleed screw is secured.

About those fork bleeder valves. Virtually every bleeder I have tested in our shop has allowed water to enter the forks within a few weeks of riding and bike washing. Definitely not good. The other equally big problem is air leakage under pressure. While riding the forks need to maintain a fixed volume of air, again most bleeders slowly leak when the forks are compressed and allow our "air spring" to change rate. Also not good. The stock screw and "o"-ring never leaks or allows water to enter the forks. You can carry the proper length and style of screw driver in your tool pack for performing the bleeding operation. Enjoy your riding and remember to bleed your forks for maximum performance.