

# CITY *of* BOSTON

## E-BIKE MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP



*Proper maintenance is critical to your safety and the performance and longevity of your e-bike. Tune up your e-bike annually and more often if you ride frequently. Proactive maintenance will help keep your bike running smoothly and prevent unnecessary repair costs.*

### PERFORM AN ABC QUICK CHECK BEFORE EVERY RIDE

- **AIR:** Bicycle tires naturally lose air over time. For proper traction and to avoid flats, make sure your tires are properly inflated.
- **BRAKES:** Always check that your brakes are operating properly before you begin your ride. When the brake lever is pulled, it should stop around one inch from the handlebar. If the lever pulls all the way to the bar, you should seek the assistance of a bicycle mechanic before riding.
- **BATTERY:** If your e-bike has an externally mounted or removable battery, ensure it is securely installed and locked in place. Check to make sure your battery has enough charge to last your ride.
- **CHAIN:** Turn the cranks and make sure the chain runs smoothly while pedaling.
- **QUICK RELEASE:** If either of your wheels utilizes a quick release axle, ensure it is tight and closed. If applicable, check the quick release on your seat.
- **CHECK:** Do a final check of your bike to ensure nothing feels loose or wobbly. No cables from the electrical system should be rubbing on any moving parts. Go for a short, slow ride to make sure everything works properly.





## KEY MAINTENANCE ITEMS

Between annual tune-ups, keep an eye on these critical components and set up a maintenance schedule to check these items.

- **BRAKES:** E-bikes are both heavier and faster than traditional bikes, so brake pads and rotors wear at a faster pace. Keep an eye on these components to ensure your brakes are always in good working order. Replace brake pads and rotors promptly when needed, and check with your bike or brake manufacturer or local bike shop for suggested service intervals.
- **TIRES:** Regularly check your tires for wear and damage. Riding on worn out tires decreases traction and increases the chances of flats. Examine your tires for overall tread condition, as well as any damage to the sidewalls. Replace your tires if there are any bulges, deformities, cuts, gashes, or if the tread is worn. Tires should feel firm when pressed with your thumb. The inflation range can be found on the sidewall of your tire.
- **CHAIN:** Chain wear can lead to drivetrain issues. Dirt and grime accelerate chain wear, so chains should be cleaned and lubricated regularly. Clean your chain with a firm brush (or chain cleaning tool), inspecting for damage as you go. After cleaning, reapply a bike chain lubricant. Wipe off any excess lubricant as overlubricating can attract dirt.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Boston Bikes Videos on bike maintenance and other tips.**

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/boston-bikes/bike-videos>

