



## GreaseSpot #8 – Chain Cleaning

The purpose of the 'GreaseSpot' is to share ideas and tips on 'two wheel vehicle' maintenance (Bicycle and Motorcycle). Questions, ideas and tips come from our fellow riders, and can be on most any topic of maintenance.

In the world of drive chain maintenance, chain cleaning is a 'dirty chore' that is normally not looked forward to...and sometimes avoided. We have received tips on many methods of chain cleaning - from removing the drive chain and soaking overnight – to using kerosene / spray cleaner on the chain and brushing – to simply wiping with a solvent (cleaner, kerosene, etc.) laden rag. All methods have varying degrees of success. Most depend upon the 'degree of grime', and the attentiveness of the rider to detail doing the cleaning.

If we had to summarize all of the techniques, it seems the most commonly used method would be applying kerosene or spraying the chain with cleaner; and, depending of the 'degree of grime', using a brush (with a rag wrapped around the brush and chain to prevent spatter) or rag alone to remove the grime. Important Note: When cleaning your chain and if you have O/X-rings, you could remove the lubricant behind the O/X-Ring whether your use a spray cleaner or just brush on kerosene.

### Questions about WD-40

We also received several questions and comments about the use of WD-40 on the chain as a cleaner / lubricant, and if it would harm O/X-Rings. We weren't sure about the effect on O/X-Rings, so we asked the manufacturer of WD-40.

This is their response: *"The "WD" stands for water displacement and acts as a rust preventative on any metal surface. WD-40 will not dry out the rubber O-rings. We have found no visible effects on the surface of rubber and O-rings. Certain types of rubber will swell under prolonged immersion in WD-40 (this refers to long soaking and not just a spray). WD-40 is also a cleaner, which will remove grime, dirt, tape, bumper stickers and oil. It is possible that if there is a special lubricant in the O-rings, WD-40 could act as a cleaner and remove that oil. The special lubricant would be replaced with WD-40. We are sure there are superior heavy-duty chain lubes on the market. There are several people who recommend using WD-40 on their chains. Perhaps some experimenting with WD-40, as a water remover and rust preventative followed by a heavier chain lube would fit your needs. The bottom line is WD-40 will not harm your O-rings, but it could remove a lubricant that was previously applied to the chain".*

If you use an aerosol spray cleaner, we can add a 'Tip' to the chain cleaning process. It would be to use your GreaseNinja to apply the cleaner. The GreaseNinja will keep the cleaner on the chain. Also, if you are using WD-40 as the cleaner, the new WD-40 aerosol cans have a very large diameter spray tube that will not fit in the GreaseNinja. A fix for this is to remove the WD-40 tube and insert the 1" one tube adapter from the GreaseNinja Spray Tube Kit into the WD-40 nozzle. Then you can insert and use a normal diameter spray tube.



