Motorcycle Tires: Maintenance and Wear

Types of Tires:
There are three main types of riding tires: Off-road, cruising, and racing tires. Off-road tires have large, knobby treads suitable for gripping loose dirt and gravel. Cruising tires have smoother treads but also contain channels for displacing water and keeping traction in different road conditions. Racing slicks are completely smooth and provide the most traction in dry conditions for tight corners. Some racing tires also have water channels for wet-weather conditions.

Terrain:
The type of path being traveled affects tire wear: the rougher the riding surface, the faster the wear occurs. Different types of tires have been developed for different terrains and riding conditions.

Cornering:
Normal tire wear will show more in the middle of the tire, with even wear on the sides. Improper cornering may produce an uneven wear pattern, or excessive wear only in the middle of the tire. An unbalanced load may also produce uneven wear.

Pressure:
Tire pressure heavily influences wear and is extremely important for safe riding. Proper inflation will maximize traction and reduce unwanted wear patterns.

Temperature:
Temperature and pressure affect each other directly: as the tire temperature increases from friction, the pressure also increases. The hotter the tire, the more grip it will have, however, if the temperature is too high, the tire becomes too malleable and the likelihood of a blowout increases.