

Do an “ABC Quick Check” to find out if your bike is ready to ride.

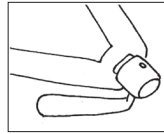
Air:

Check both your tires for air. They should be as firm as a basketball.



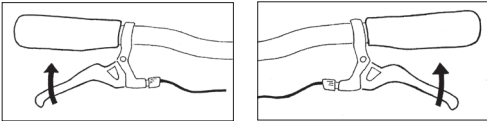
Quick:

Check the quick release skewers on your wheels to make sure they are tight enough to keep your wheels on. You should be able to read the word “CLOSED” on the outside of the quick release levers.



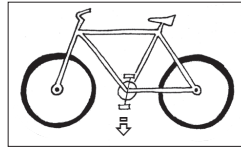
Brakes:

Slide your bike forward and squeeze the front brake lever. If the back wheel pops off the ground, your front brake is ready. Roll your bike backward and squeeze the rear brake lever. If the front wheel pops off the ground, your rear brake is ready. When you squeeze the brake levers as hard as you can, there should be enough room to fit a thumb between the levers and the handlebar. If there is not, your brakes need to be tightened.



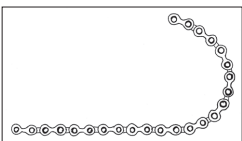
Check:

Lift the bike a few inches off the ground and drop it. Listen for excessive rattling. Watch for anything falling off your bike. These are signs that there is a problem.



Chain:

Check your chain by lifting the rear wheel off the ground and moving your pedals forward; the chain should be on the chain rings, move smoothly with the pedals and not squeak. Touch the chain with one finger to check if your chain is properly lubricated. If you see a slight smudge on your finger, your chain is properly greased. What color is your chain? Brown or red means rust—that is bad. Black or silver is good.



If something serious is wrong, like a wobbly wheel or brakes that rub, you should take it to a bike shop.

Find out more at www.cityofelgin.org/bikes

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or www.activetrans.org for more information.

