

General Competition Maintenance

Spark Plug

Some non-resistor plugs may cause ignition problems. Refer to the recommendations elsewhere in this manual for specific types so you will be sure to use the proper reach and heat range. Replace periodically as specified in the Maintenance Schedule (pages 25, 26).

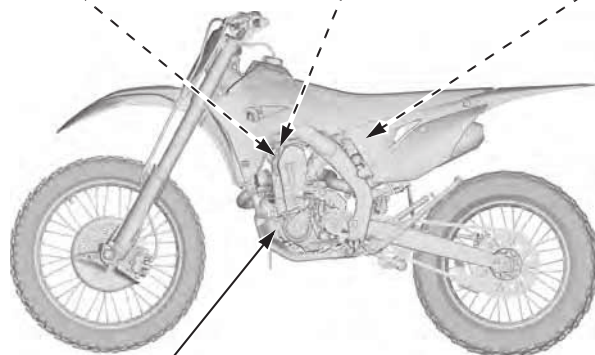
Spark Plug Cap

Install a small plastic wire band around the spark plug cap to reduce any possibility of it loosening or of water penetration.



Air Cleaner

Clean and oil your air cleaner regularly because the volume of air able to pass through it has a great effect on performance. Both engine performance and long term durability may be affected by an air cleaner that has deteriorated and allows dirt to pass. Inspect the air cleaner closely each time it's serviced for evidence of small tears or seam separation. Keep a spare air cleaner oiled and ready to install, sealed in a plastic bag. Riding in dusty conditions may require servicing the air cleaner or replacing it with a pre-serviced air cleaner between races (CRF450RX)/motocross (CRF450R/RWE). Be careful not to over oil the air cleaner. While it is important to oil the air cleaner thoroughly, over oiling will cause an overall rich running condition, probably more noticeable off idle and in low rpm performance. Follow the servicing instructions in the Maintenance section. Use Pro Honda Foam Air Filter Oil or an equivalent. Be sure to grease the air cleaner flange where it contacts the air cleaner housing. Pro Honda Foam Air Filter Sealer or an equivalent is handy for this because any dirt that penetrates this sealing area will show up clearly (page 67). Use the Honda Genuine air cleaner or an equivalent air cleaner specified for your model. Using the wrong Honda air cleaner or a non-Honda air cleaner which is not of equivalent quality may cause premature engine wear or performance problems.



Engine Oil and Filter

Drain and replace engine oil often to ensure the greatest service life of the piston, cylinder, crankshaft, transmission and clutch.

Also replace engine oil filter often to ensure the greatest service life. Frequent changes will also assure consistent performance of power, response, both shifting and clutch action (page 63).