

Two-Up Cruiser Checklist

Choosing and setting up a cruiser for a passenger, and what to ask on the test ride

On the Bike

1 Seat wide and deep enough for two

A narrow pillion pad is a short-ride seat. Sit the passenger on it with the rider aboard first.

2 Backrest or top case

The single biggest comfort upgrade for two-up riding; it lets the passenger relax.

3 Passenger pegs or floorboards

Check knee angle with the passenger seated. High, rear-set pegs fold knees for hours.

4 Wind protection

Consider how much of the rider's turbulence the passenger will take in the chest and helmet.

5 Suspension adjustable for two

Ask whether rear preload can be set for a passenger and how easy it is to change.

Before the First Ride Together

1 Passenger gear that fits them

Ontario's licensing rules call for an approved helmet on the passenger too; check the fit, then add a jacket, gloves, long pants and boots.

2 Check the owner's manual for two-up settings

Tire pressures and suspension settings for carrying a passenger vary by bike.

3 Adjust mirrors and headlight with the passenger seated

The bike sits differently with two aboard.

4 Brief the passenger

How to get on, where to hold, feet on the pegs at stops, and lean with the bike.

On the Test Ride, Ask the Passenger

1 Where did you feel the bumps?

Points to the suspension and seat padding.

2 What were you holding onto?

Gripping the rider all ride means a backrest is missing.

3 Would you do two hours of that?

The only question that decides the purchase.

4 Ask your broker how a passenger fits into your policy

And mention any seat, backrest or suspension changes you make to the bike.

Choose for the second ride, not just the first.

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