

# Bike Edmonton

## Bike Building Basics



It's good to get experience working on all different kinds of bikes, but when you're starting out, pick a bike that's easy. This will probably be a complete newer bike that's already in decent shape. Avoid older, unusual, or 'franken' bikes for now. Also consider if we have any parts you're likely to need. For instance, if the tires are worn out, do we have more of that size in stock?

The first step is to give the bike a thorough looking over. You want to make sure there's nothing irreparable that will emerge later, after you've put in lots of work. Check that:

- the seatpost and stem aren't seized in the frame
- the frame and fork aren't bent or deformed (e.g. does the front wheel look bent back towards the frame?)
- there's no cracks (look closely around welds and lugs)



If the bike seems good, start working through a repair checklist. You must **always** use one when bike building; it helps make sure we're performing consistently thorough repairs, but it's also a record that others can use to efficiently continue the repair work. And it's a way to keep track of what parts have been used. It's best to put used parts on build bikes if possible, but new parts are often needed.

Accurate new parts inventory is vital to running the shops smoothly and any new part used on a build must be 'sold' to Bike Edmonton. At the end of every repair session, enter the parts into the Square terminal (Ipad) and apply the **100% Bike Building** discount. Do this even for small new parts like ball bearings. Please indicate that you have done this on the repair checklist.



You will need to clean the bike as you go to make sure things are in good working order, and to make the bike presentable. You may prefer to spend some time up front cleaning the bike to make it easier to work on. Please be as thorough as possible; clean bikes are much more likely to sell than grubby ones!



*Every bike is unique. Some are quite easy, others take longer than you'd expect, and some will be infuriating. We strive to make every bike as functional as possible, but these are used bikes and they are sometimes imperfect. Safety, however, is non-negotiable. If you ever have doubts about a bike's safety, mark it very clearly on the checklist.*

*When the bike is complete, or you've done what you can for the day, attach the checklist securely to the bike. Avoid strapping parts to bikes, (it makes them harder to store), however you can do this if necessary (with essential, unique parts).*

*Generally speaking, all bikes are available for any volunteer to work on. A paid staff mechanic will always need to check the bike over before tagging it as done, however. No matter how experienced a mechanic you may be, it's always good to have things double checked. Bike building is a great way to improve your mechanical skills. Repair checklists are kept when bikes are completed and if you want feedback on your work, you're encouraged to review the staff comments on the filed checklists.*

