



Chain lube update – how Smoove are my gearchanges??

Previously I've mentioned my five-minute post ride maintenance regime, looked at various chain lube products and their applications. I've used a few of them too, and determined that while some are better than others, the silver bullet has yet to be encountered. Until now.

Drivetrain lubrication helps with reducing drivetrain wear and noise, and aids smooth gearchanges. Reduced drivetrain wear suggests improved reliability, extended maintenance periods and definitely saves money.

Plus, the bike just glides silently down the road which is an awesome sensation.

I recently changed to [Smoove](#), a wax based lubricant carried in a water base. This is significant as there is no solvent to carry the lubricant into the friction points on the chain. What this means is that the preparation of the chain requires more diligence compared with application of lubricants with a hydrocarbon based carrier agent which moves the lubricant into the chain rollers and bushings.

The solvent carrier component which would additionally float any residual grease and particles off the chain is absent and so the chain must be meticulously clean prior to application. Additionally, any solvents must be completely removed from the chain prior to application of the Smoove.

Once applied a thin waxy film which does not flake or fall off remains. It does not get greasy or dirty like solvent type lubricants and it does not attract small particles of road grit or dust. It remains clean looking which means that contact with the chain does not leave a tattoo. Gear changes are brisk and smooth and with less effort than previously for the bikes with manual drivetrains. Noticeably so on the bike with the Campagnolo drivetrain.

Longevity exceeds my previous favourite solvent based lubricant and I certainly don't have to clean and lube the chain after each ride as I did previously. Reviews suggest that on a road bike 1000km between applications is achievable, and so taking time with the chain preparation is a worthwhile investment since you don't have to do it often.

A bottle of Smoove is said to hold about 30 applications, and so this makes it significantly better value than other products. However you will also need the chain prep and a chain cleaning tool like the [ParkTools 5-2](#) to ensure all the dirt and grease is removed initially, and that Smoove is completely removed prior to each subsequent application. This will set you back about the same as a new chain and cassette, but then promises to last a long time.

So far it's all win.

[Link to product videos and preparation guides.](#)