



The Smart Cycle Lube

User Manual

www.thecha.cc

What is CHA?

CHA is a patented solid graphite chain lubricant applied with a refillable applicator tool. Whether you ride to work every day, run errands around town, or head out for long weekend rides, CHA keeps your chain running smoothly. Instead of dripping liquid oil onto your chain, you apply a specially engineered, proprietary graphite formula directly to the rollers. Graphite works progressively into the pins and rollers as you ride, lubricating the chain from the inside out.

Because it is dry, CHA does not attract dust and grit the way liquid oils and wet waxes do. That is the core difference, and it matters for how your drivetrain wears over time.

The three formulas

Each formula has its own applicator tool. The colour is on the applicator body, so you always know which one you are holding.



■ Core

Standard, all-round conditions. Uncoloured applicator body. Your everyday lube.



■ Storm

Rain over-layer. Cobalt blue applicator body. Apply over Core for wet rides.



■ Trail

Mud and grit under-layer. Mud Orange applicator body. Apply under Core for off-road.

What is in the box

Applicator tool (with formula capsule fitted) and this manual. Refill capsules are available separately at thecha.cc.

Before You Start

No degreasing needed

You do not need to degrease your chain before applying CHA. In fact, deep cleaning can interfere with how the graphite first adheres. A dry chain in normal riding condition is ready to go. If your chain is caked in old wet lube, wipe off the loose surface gunk with a dry cloth, but you do not need to strip it back to bare metal.

Build the layer

CHA performs best once a graphite layer has built up on the chain. For the first ride, apply before you set off and again after you return. This lays down the foundation the formula keeps building on with each subsequent application.

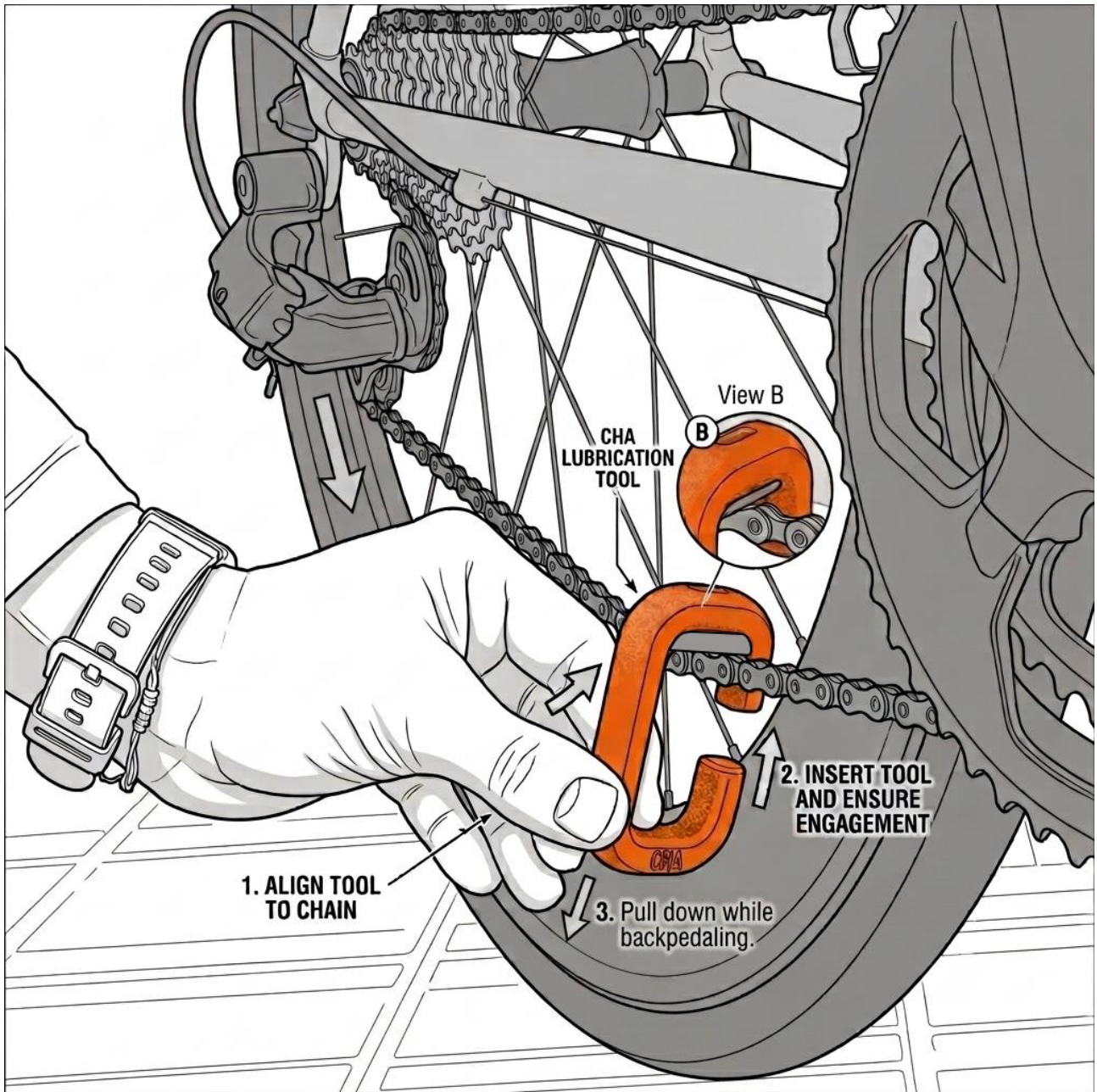
Break-in

Expect a short break-in of roughly 1 to 5 km as the graphite works into the pins and rollers. After that, the chain settles into its proper feel.

A more metallic sound is normal

Graphite coats the steel in a very thin layer rather than a thick film of oil or wax, so the chain glides with less friction but also sounds a little more metallic. That sound is expected and is not a sign of a dry chain. Noise is not a reliable indicator of lubrication in a dry system; the cloth test described on the next pages is.

Applying CHA



Hold the applicator against the chain rollers and backpedal so the chain runs across the graphite tip. The formula transfers onto the rollers as the chain moves.

1. Shift to a middle gear so the chain runs cleanly across the cassette.
2. Hold the applicator tip firmly against the lower run of the chain, against the rollers.
3. Backpedal smoothly for roughly 7 to 10 full turns, keeping steady contact so graphite transfers evenly.
4. Run the chain back a few times to work the graphite in, then wipe lightly to check coverage.

Checking coverage (the cloth test)

Run a clean cloth or your finger along the chain. You are looking for an even, dry, slightly slick film across the rollers, not a build-up on the outer plates. This tactile check is the correct way to confirm the chain is lubricated. Re-apply where coverage is thin.

Using Storm and Trail

Storm and Trail are layered with Core, not used instead of it:

- **Rain:** apply Core first, then add Storm as an over-layer on all sides of the chain. After a wet ride, wipe the water off the chain with a dry cloth.
- **Mud and grit:** apply Trail first as an under-layer, then Core on top.

Link to first application guide: [OPEN](#)

When to Re-apply

How often you re-apply depends on how much and where you ride, not on a fixed schedule. A few simple guides:

- **Daily commuting or city riding:** a quick top-up around once a week keeps the chain in good shape. If you ride in rain or on dusty roads, do it a little more often.
- **Occasional or weekend riding:** re-apply when the chain starts to feel dry to the touch, often every few rides.
- **Longer or sportier rides:** as a rough distance guide, one Core application covers around 70 to 120 km in dry conditions, roughly 100 km as a simple rule. Wet or muddy rides shorten that.

The simplest habit is the cloth test described earlier. If the chain feels dry rather than slick, it is time for a top-up. Applying a little more often than needed does no harm.

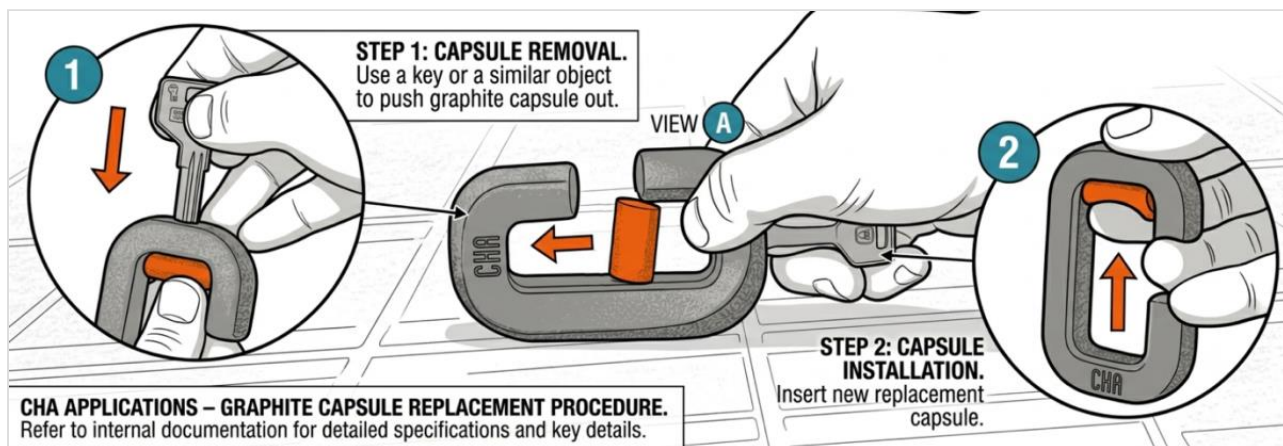
In short

Commuters: a weekly top-up is a good rhythm. Weekend riders: re-apply when the chain feels dry, or roughly every 100 km. Everyone: when in doubt, the cloth test decides.

Replacing the Capsule

The graphite formula lives in a replaceable capsule seated in the top of the applicator. When a capsule is spent, swap it for a fresh one. The applicator tool itself you keep.

1. Find the small hole at the **top** of the applicator.
2. Insert a key or a thin object through that hole and push to eject the used capsule out.
3. Take a fresh capsule and press it **upward** into the top cylindrical cavity until it seats firmly.
4. Wipe the tip and you are ready to apply again.



How long a capsule lasts

A capsule lasts for many applications, but the exact number depends on how you ride, how much formula you apply each time, and the conditions. As a rough guide, a Core capsule typically gives around 90 to 120 applications, with Storm and Trail somewhat fewer. For most riders that is many months of use. Refill capsules are available at thecha.cc. Members of CHA Priority get extra refill discounts and first access to new products: join at thecha.cc/priority.

Storage

Keep the applicator with its tip clean and dry between rides. Store at room temperature, away from direct heat. Replace the cap if your applicator has one.

Why Graphite, Not Oil

The most common question is simple: why move away from liquid lube at all? The answer comes down to how dirt behaves inside a chain.

The abrasive paste problem

Liquid oils and wet waxes are sticky by design, so they cling to the chain. Unfortunately they also attract dust and road grit, which works its way inside the pins and rollers. There, oil and dirt combine into an abrasive grinding paste that accelerates chain wear from the inside, exactly where you cannot see or clean it.

Graphite is dry. It lubricates the same articulating surfaces but does not hold onto grit, so no abrasive paste forms. The chain stays cleaner internally and wears more slowly.

How it lubricates

Graphite is not just a surface coating. As the chain articulates under load, the formula is worked progressively into the pins and rollers during riding. That is why building the layer over the first few applications matters, and why the chain keeps improving rather than degrading between top-ups.

A thin layer, not a thick film

Graphite bonds where it finds bare steel and does not stack on itself where graphite is already present. The result is a very thin, even layer instead of a viscous coating. The chain glides through less resistance, and this is also why it sounds slightly more metallic than an oiled or waxed chain.

Independent science

The lubricating behaviour of graphite in mechanical contacts is documented in third-party research, including Morstein et al., Nature Communications (2022), from Fraunhofer IWM and KIT, and studies published in Tribology Transactions (2025). CHA relies on its own documented testing alongside this wider science base.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to clean or degrease my chain first?

No. A dry chain in normal condition is ready. Avoid deep degreasing, as it can interfere with early graphite adhesion. Wipe off loose surface gunk only.

How often should I apply?

It depends on how much you ride. For daily commuting, a quick top-up about once a week works well. For occasional riding, re-apply when the chain feels dry to the touch. Wet or dusty conditions call for a little more often. The cloth test is your real guide.

Can I use CHA over my existing oil or wax?

Yes. Do not degrease. Wipe off any loose surface oil with a dry cloth and apply CHA on top. On a chain that has not been degreased the graphite settles faster, and over the first applications it progressively takes over from whatever lube was there before. Heavy wet lube blunts the benefit at first, so a wipe helps.

My chain sounds different. Is it dry?

Probably not. A graphite-lubricated chain sounds a little more metallic than an oiled or waxed one because the layer is so thin. Do the cloth test: if the rollers feel slightly slick, the chain is lubricated.

Does CHA protect against rust?

Yes, when the steel is covered. On a fully cleaned or new chain, apply CHA to all sides of the chain, not just the rollers, ideally finishing with Storm. After wet rides, wipe the chain dry.

Which formula do I need?

Core for everyday riding and commuting. Add Storm over Core for rain. Apply Trail under Core for mud and grit. Core is the foundation in all cases.

How long does a capsule last?

Many applications, typically months of use for most riders. The exact number depends on how often and where you ride and how much you apply each time. Replace the capsule when it runs out and keep the tool.

Product Details

Product	CHA solid graphite chain lubricant, applicator system
Formulas	Core (standard), Storm (rain over-layer), Trail (mud under-layer)
Applicator body	Nylon PA12 Tough
Capsule	Solid graphite formula, replaceable
Patent	WO 2026/057906 A1
Break-in	1 to 5 km
Coverage	Around 70 to 120 km per application in dry conditions; varies with use and conditions
Capsule life	Around 90 to 120 applications (Core); somewhat fewer for Storm and Trail

Support

Questions, refills, and the full range are at **thecha.cc**. For anything else, reach us at **hello@thecha.cc**.

CHA is a product of CGPills SL, Lluçmajor, Illes Balears, Spain. A brand from Mallorca, made in Barcelona and the UK. Patent WO 2026/057906 A1. More details at thecha.cc.