

Motorcycle Safety Tips



When You're on the Road, Put Safety First!

Know the law.

Check with the area Department of Motor Vehicles to find out what the laws say about operating your vehicle and required safety gear where you will be riding.

Be prepared.

Make sure you and your bike are properly licensed and insured. And don't take unnecessary risks with unfavorable road conditions such as wet pavement. Oils from other vehicles and moisture make pavement very slick. Read and carry your owner's manual along with a small tool kit when you're riding.

Gear up.

Always be sure you and your passengers wear protective gear. A helmet, eye protection, a sturdy jacket, long pants, boots and gloves are your best bet for optimum protection. Review proper riding techniques with your passengers.

Stand out.

Brightly colored clothing can help make other drivers aware of you. While you're riding, use your headlight, avoid other vehicles' blind spots, drive carefully and be prepared to use your horn.

Distance yourself.

Always leave enough space between you and the vehicle in front of you. That might be your only way out if the car behind you fails to stop in time. When turning, start on the outside of the curve to give

yourself additional visibility and increase your safe space.

Position yourself.

Make the left wheel track of a 4-wheeled vehicle your main lane position. However, when following another vehicle or coming to a stop, move to the right so you are more conspicuous and have space to exit if you need it.

Ride defensively.

Most collisions occur because the driver of the car didn't see the motorcycle. That's why it pays to scan around you — in front, to the side and behind. Note what's around you and be prepared to react. Watch for cars waiting to turn left across your path at intersections.

Be sharp.

Ride only when your senses are sharp. Never do drugs or drink and then drive. Up to 45% of all fatal motorcycle accidents involve alcohol. Always take time to get enough rest when out on long trips.

Check it out.

Make sure your bike is running properly before riding. Always check mirrors, tire pressure, fuel level, gauges and suspension. Follow the recommended service schedule for your bike, and be sure to have all repairs made by an authorized service provider.

Practice.

Find a safe place or low traffic area to practice braking, turning and improving your reaction time, especially if you're a new rider. Practice helps hone your skills and make you a better — and safer — rider.

Learn more.

Improve your riding skills by taking a beginner or experienced Motorcycle Rider Course from a training center recognized by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation.

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