

# 15 motorcycle safety tips.



Ride to live, live to ride! Motorcycling provides an exhilarating escape from everyday life, but it also presents greater dangers than traveling by car. Protect yourself by following these safety guidelines.

Smart bikers follow these motorcycle safety tips.

1. **Wear a helmet.** It may be optional in some states, but it's still encouraged. To protect your head, we recommend a full-face helmet that's been approved by the Department of Transportation (just look for the DOT certification sticker).
2. **Get the right gear.** Put on your pants and boots, and don't forget a pair of leather gloves.
3. **Be bright.** Brown and black? They both blend in... But you want to stand out. Go with brighter colors to make it easy for people to see you.
4. **Take a motorcycle safety class.** Fine-tuning your riding skills? A safety class can help — and some states require it. Register for a course that's convenient for you.
5. **Do a pre-ride check.** Take a look at your bike's lights, brakes, tire pressure, and fluid levels. Is everything in working order? If so, you're good to go.
6. **Don't let brakes break you.** When you need to stop suddenly, train your brain to brake with your foot.
7. **Be a defensive rider.** Not-so-fun fact: When there's a collision between a motorcycle and a car, the driver of the car is usually at fault. That's why it's up to you to stay aware of your surroundings.
8. **Keep your eyes on the road (literally).** Whether you're riding straight or rounding a corner, keep your head up and focus on where you want to go. Be especially alert at intersections; more than a third of motorcycle fatalities occur at intersections, according to data from the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#).
9. **Be aware of your surroundings.** Remember to scan the horizon for any hazards that may cross your path.

10. **Steer clear of slippery situations.** Always be alert. Things like gravel, grass clippings, railroad tracks, and road paint can cause your bike to lose traction.
11. **Stick to a comfortable speed.** Even when you're riding in a pack, ride at your own pace.
12. **Stretch, rest and refresh.** When riding a motorcycle, never ride tired. Instead, stop at least once every 75 miles and give yourself a break.
13. **Stay hydrated, but don't drink and ride.** Even small amounts of alcohol can slow your reaction time and give you a false sense of confidence.
14. **Don't risk riding in the rain.** Riding in the rain reduces your stability and visibility. Also, it hurts. Consult your weather app before every ride.
15. **Insure your motorcycle.** For more information about motorcycle insurance, find a [local, independent agent](#) near you..

One last safety tip: When you're driving, not riding, remember to always look twice. You could save a motorcyclist's life.

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