15 motorcycle safety tips.

Think you’re ready for the road?

Find out which rules the best bikers abide by:

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 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. Always make it easy for people to see you and your motorcycle.
4. **Take a safety class.** Fine-tuning your riding skills? It could be required. Register for a course that’s convenient for you.
5. **Give a quick glance.** 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 for something sudden, 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 person in 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 a straight shot or rounding a corner, keep your head up and look to where you want to go.
9. **Be aware of your surroundings.** Remember to scan the horizon ahead for any hazards that may make their way into your path.
10. **Steer clear of slippery situations.** Always be alert. Things like gravel, grass clippings, railroad tracks and the paint on the roads can cause your bike to lose traction.
11. **Stick to a comfortable speed.** Even when you’re riding in a pack, ride at your pace.
12. **Stretch, rest and refresh.** When riding a motorcycle, never ride tired. Instead, stop every 75

miles.

13. **Stay hydrated, but don’t drink and ride.** Any bit 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… and it hurts. Consider your weather app one of your greatest allies.
15. **Insure your motorcycle.** For more information about motorcycle insurance, find a local, independent agent near you.

One last tip? When you’re driving, not riding, remember to always look twice, because you could save a motorcyclist’s life.