

Same Road, Same Rules

The California Vehicle Code requires cyclists and motorists to follow the same rules of the road.

Safety Tips for Motorists

Bicyclists on public streets have the same rights and responsibilities as vehicle and motorcycle drivers. When driving, please remember to:

- Pass a cyclist as you would a slow-moving vehicle. Exercise caution and only pass when it's safe to do so.
- Don't "door" someone! Look carefully for cyclists before opening vehicle doors next to moving traffic or a bike lane, particularly in areas like Corona del Mar.
- Always check the bike lane or shoulder area for cyclists before turning (especially in Corona del Mar, Mariners Mile or along Bayside Drive). Remember: "Signal, mirror, head-check" when approaching the turn.
- Never attempt to overtake and pass a cyclist just before you make a right turn, and check the bike lane before making a left turn. A cyclist may be going faster than you think, particularly in downhill sections of the roadway.
- Use caution when approaching or passing a cyclist on exits from large streets such as Coast Highway, the 73 toll road, Mac Arthur Blvd., Jamboree Rd., and Newport Coast Drive. These are busy roads with many cyclists.
- Make a habit of expecting to encounter pedestrians and cyclists in the roadway.

Did You Know?

Motorists: Horn blasts can startle cyclists and cause an accident.

Motorists: Don't assume cyclists must always ride to the far right. The right-side "rule" varies with roadway conditions.

Motorists: It's always best to be patient when passing a cyclist and to remain behind the cyclist until you can, depending on the road conditions, safely clear the cyclist.

Cyclists: You are required to use bike lanes on roads that have bike lanes, but you may enter into the traffic lane to execute a left turn.

Motorists and Cyclists: When a traffic lane is too narrow for cars and bikes to ride safely side by side, bicyclists should ride near the center of the lane to prevent motorists from trying to pass too close within the lane.

Motorists and Cyclists: Use caution at driveways and intersections. A motorist pulling out of a parking space or turning may not see the cyclist. Bicyclists should always be alert and visible when riding on a highway.

Motorists and Cyclists: Make eye contact to acknowledge the presence of a cyclist or pedestrian and yield when appropriate.

**The California Department of Motor Vehicles provided much of the information and advice contained in this brochure.*



Safety Guidelines

for

Bicyclists

&

Motorists

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Each year in California, more than 100 people are killed & hundreds of thousands more are injured in bicycle accidents.*

In Newport Beach, between 90 and 100 bicycle accidents occur annually (not all are due to traffic violations), and at least one person has been killed as the result of a bike accident each year since 2005. Statistics show that in a majority of all bike-related accidents in the city, the bicyclist was at fault.

The streets of Newport Beach carry thousands of motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians daily to home, work or recreational destinations. Each of these users has rights and responsibilities when using public streets. This brochure provides a brief overview of the legal obligations of bicyclists and motorists and offers safety tips to help keep you and others safe.

Under the California Vehicle Code, both motorists and bicyclists must abide by the same set of traffic laws including yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks, respecting the rules for bike lanes, and obeying all stop signs, traffic signals and speed limits. California Vehicle Code Division 11, Chapter 1, Article 4 details the laws applicable to bicycle use. Please visit www.ca.dmv.gov/ for more information.

*California Department of Motor Vehicles

Safety Tips for Bicyclists

Always wear a helmet.

- Keep in mind that a simple fall can cause a life-threatening head injury.
- Get a helmet that fits properly and secure the strap.
- Make sure that children under the age of 18 always wear a helmet while riding. It's state law.

Maintain control of your bicycle.

- Ensure it is the right size and fit.
- Check your bike often to see that it is in good working order (brakes, chain, tires).
- Control the speed of your bike and allow ample space and time for stopping.

Ride defensively. Be visible, alert and communicate your intentions.

- Use your left arm to signal your intentions to drivers.
- Always be prepared to stop or to take evasive action.
- Be aware of vehicles at stop signs, in parking spaces and driveways that may suddenly pull out in front of you.
- Be vigilant. Vehicles that pass you may abruptly turn in front of you.

Ride with traffic.

- Travel in the same direction as traffic.
- Obey all traffic laws.
- Practice defensive riding.

Be Visible

- Wear clothing that is light or brightly colored.
- Make sure your bicycle is equipped with reflectors on the front, back, and wheel spokes.
- Add a light to your bike and use it when riding at night or when visibility is low.

Common Questions & Answers

How far to the right should I ride?

In general, ride on the right-hand side of the road, but not in the gutter. Do not ride too far to the right when a traffic lane is too narrow for a bicycle and a vehicle to be safely side-by-side, or when trying to avoid car doors opening, parked cars, or debris.

When should cyclists use the traffic lane?

If there is no shoulder or bike lane and the traffic lane is narrow, ride close to the center of the lane. You also use the center of the lane when riding at the same speed as the motor vehicles.

What about left turns?

When clear, move to the center of the outermost left turn lane so that you will be to the right when completing your turn. Yield to oncoming traffic.

Can bikes be in pedestrian crosswalks?

Walk your bike as a pedestrian. Obey signals and traffic control signs and yield to pedestrians.

Can I ride my bike on the sidewalk?

Yes, but only in certain areas. Look for the signs that say "OK for Bikes to be on Sidewalk".

Can I ride side-by-side with another cyclist?

Sometimes. Riding two abreast may be okay in bike lanes, bike paths and bike trails - where there is plenty of room.

Do all these rules apply to training or group rides?

Yes. Be very cautious in group rides where speed and competition occasionally surpass good sense. At traffic signals, the leader should slow and stop at a yellow light rather than risk having the rest of the group run a red light.