

## Share the Road Tips for Motorists



Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as motorists on the road. (VC21220(a))  
Here are some helpful hints for motorists:

**What to expect** – By law, bicyclists should ride in the same direction as car traffic. However, you should also be on the lookout for uneducated bicyclists on the sidewalk and moving in the opposite direction from car traffic. Also be on the lookout for small children on bicycles, moving at the speed of pedestrians.

- **Give Adequate Space** – In conditions where there is not enough room for the bicyclist to ride to the right, they are allowed in the lane of traffic.
- **Passing** – Wait until it is safe to pass a bicyclist. You should allow ample space between your vehicle and the bicyclist. If you pass too closely, the draft from your car can pull a bicyclist off course and cause the rider to swerve out of control. Thus, the three foot rule is recommended – give the bicycle a minimum of three feet when passing.
- **Turning Right** – Watch out for bicyclists when turning right. A bicyclist may be to the right of you and planning to go straight at the same intersection. The bicyclist may be going faster than you think. As you slow to make the turn, the bicyclist may not be able to avoid crashing into the passenger side of your car.

- **Turning Left** – Look for bicyclists when making a left hand turn. Bicyclists who are crossing straight through the same intersection in the opposite direction may be going faster than you realize.

## For More Tips & Info

If you would like more detailed information, references to California Vehicle Code (VC) are listed throughout the book and will look like this (VC21235d). The website address is [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov).

If you would like more information about selecting the right helmet for your activity, consult the Consumer Product Safety Commission website at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) and look for the brochure “Which Helmet for Which Activity?”

Check the NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) website for the “7 Smart Routes to Bicycle Safety” at [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov)



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## Tips for Safe Bicycling



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## Seven Smart Routes to Bicycle Safety

### 1. PROTECT YOUR HEAD.

Wear a Helmet.

### 2. ASSURE BICYCLE READINESS.

Ensure Proper Size and Function of Bicycle.

### 3. RIDE WISELY.

Learn and Follow the Rules of the Road.

### 4. BE PREDICTABLE.

Act like a Driver of a Vehicle.

### 5. BE VISIBLE.

See and Be Seen At All Times.

### 6. "DRIVE" WITH CARE.

Share the Road.

### 7. STAY FOCUSED.

Stay Alert.



## Protect Your Head. Wear A Helmet.

Never ride a bicycle without wearing a properly fitted helmet. Helmets are proven to be 85-88 percent effective in preventing traumatic brain injury, the primary cause of death and disabling injuries resulting from cycling crashes. Wear a helmet that meets the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) standard (see inside of helmet for presence of a label). For more information see the brochure: "Easy Steps to Properly Fit a Bicycle Helmet" in English or in Spanish at: [www.nhtsa.dot.gov/](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/)

## Ride Wisely. Learn and Follow the Rules of the Road

- Bicyclists are considered vehicles on the road and must follow traffic laws that apply to motor vehicles. Ride in the same direction as cars. (VC21650.1) Drivers are not looking for wrong way bicyclists.
- Always ride with traffic and obey traffic lights, signs, speed limits, and lane markings. (VC 21200)
- Know the traffic laws found in your State drivers' licensing handbook.
- Signal in advance of a turn; use correct hand signals so others can anticipate your actions. (VC 22111) BE PREDICTABLE.
- In the crosswalk or not, bike riders and drivers are required to yield to pedestrians. (CVC 21954 (b))
- If you choose to ride on a sidewalk, take extra caution at driveways and other intersections.
- Check for traffic by looking left-right-left before entering a street.



## Stay Focused. Stay Alert.

- Never wear headphones; they hinder your ability to hear traffic.
- Always look for obstacles in your path (potholes, cracks, expansion joints, railroad tracks, wet leaves, drainage grates, or anything that could make you fall). Before going around any object, scan ahead and behind you for a gap in traffic, signal your intentions to move, then follow through with your intentions.
- Be aware of the traffic around you. Ride defensively.
- Use extra care when riding in wet weather. Slow your speed and allow extra time and space to stop.
- Keep an Ear Clear. Even when using hands-free devices, bike riders and drivers are required to keep one ear free of headphones. (CVC 27400)



## Be Visible. See and Be Seen at All Times.

- Always assume you are not seen by others. Cyclists must take responsibility for being visible to motorists, pedestrians, and other cyclists. To enhance your visibility at night and in low-visibility conditions (dawn, dusk, and inclement weather).
- Wear neon and fluorescent colors. Wear special clothing made from reflective materials, for example, retro-reflective vests, jackets, wristbands, and patches for your back, legs and arms, and helmet.
- Install bicycle reflectors on both the front and back of your bicycle. If a carrier is added, make sure the rear reflector is visible. A flashing red light on the rear of the bicycle, backpack, or helmet will increase your visibility to others: and Be aware of your State or local laws regarding use of lights on bicycles (CVC 21201). Use of lights in low-visibility conditions is also recommended. Young children should be discouraged from riding at night.

