

Riding safely...

... anywhere



You must always ride with:

- front & rear lights
- a helmet
- a bell

... on the road

A **bicycle is a vehicle**, so cyclists have **the same rights as motorists**. However, because they are very vulnerable, cyclists need to take additional precautions:

- Be aware! (Motorists may not be.)
- Be assertive, but not aggressive or foolish.
- Be seen, with bright, reflective clothing.
- Be predictable, and obey the road rules.
- Make eye contact with motorists.
- Don't dart in and out around parked cars – keep a constant line.
- Don't ride in the gutter – leave yourself an escape in case of trouble.

... on a bikeway or footpath

Footpath riding has been legal in Queensland since 1994. Bikeways share more or less the same rules as footpaths and are good alternatives to dangerous roads when used courteously.

- Be patient with, and give way to, pedestrians. If you'd rather not, then use the road instead.
- Beware of motorists coming in and out of driveways, and while crossing roads. They may be looking the other way.
- There are many collisions each year on bikeways and footpaths, so stay alert.

Other helpful tips...

- For greater cargo capacity, and to keep the sweat off your back, try a **bike rack & panniers** (i.e. saddlebags made especially for bicycles).
- Carry a **flat-tyre repair kit**: a pump, patch kit, tyre levers, spare tube & shifting spanner.
- Power your lights with **rechargeable batteries** to save money and to reduce waste (or use a "dynamo" to pedal-power your lights)
- Keep **spare batteries** with you at all times.

How to avoid theft...

- Always use a quality lock, even for short stops.
- Make your bike less desirable.
- Ask your department or employer to provide safe bicycle storage facilities.

You know it's gonna happen...

In case of dangerous driving, physical or verbal abuse from other road users, here are some tips:

- No matter how wronged you are, **REMAIN NON-VIOLENT**. Consult the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.
- Take down the offending vehicle's details, including company name if applicable.
- Report all details in person to your **local police station**.
- If the offender is a **Brisbane City Council bus driver**, call 3403 8888 to report the incident.
- If road conditions were at fault, write to **your local councillor** identifying the problem.

For further information...



Bicycle Queensland provides third-party insurance for members, and works to promote cycling in Queensland. For membership or other inquiries, call us on 3844 1144.

FOR FUN -



FOR HEALTH



FOR

CLEAN AIR -

TO SAVE



MONEY - TO BE



INDEPENDENT -

FOR KICKS -



FOR EXCITEMENT -

TO RELAX -



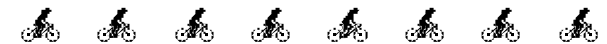
FOR SPORT -

TO GET THERE -



TO BE DIFFERENT -

TO BE THE SAME?



whatever... **JUST RIDE!!!!**



Here's how to

get started...



Getting Started...

...with an old bike



"I have a bike, but haven't ridden in years. How do I get started?"

1. **Wake it up!** Take your bike to your local bike shop for a tune-up, or ask a cyclist friend to help you adjust your brakes, gears and seat-post, and pump up your tyres.
2. **Off you go!** It's that easy.

...with a new bike



"I don't have a bike and don't even know what kind to buy."

Buying a new bicycle is much easier, and much cheaper, than buying a car. Start by asking yourself a few questions:

1. How much money can I spend on a bike and other accessories?
2. Which of the following types of riding do I plan to do?
 - (a) on-road
 - (b) on bikeways/footpaths
 - (c) off-road/mountain-biking
3. Do I like to ride in a more upright position (mountain bike or hybrid style), or in a more aerodynamic position (road bikes and "racing" bikes with drop-down handlebars)?

4. Do I want a rugged bike that's slightly heavier, or a smooth-riding, lightweight bike that goes faster but can't jump kerbs?

Once you've answered these questions, go to two or three different bike shops and test-ride a few models. Ask about each brand's reputation and reliability, and don't buy a bike from a department store, as they can cost you more in the long run.

Factors to consider in your final decision:

- price
- comfort
- look (you have to be proud of your bike or else you won't ride it!)
- helpfulness of staff (if they don't seem to care about finding the right bike for you, try another shop)
- accessibility of shop (is it open when you're likely to need a part or service? is it close to your home, work, etc?)



Once you've determined which bike feels like the best bike for you, you're ready to make a purchase. Don't forget to bring it back for your free follow-up service in a few months.

...with a secondhand bike



"I thought I might save a few dollars by buying a secondhand bike. Is this a good idea?"

Before entering the **secondhand market**, you should know the following:

- answers to the same questions that are in the "new bike" section;

- how much the potential secondhand bike would cost new;
- what other bikes you could buy new for the price of the secondhand bike;
- how to detect **serious damage** that might cost too much to fix;
- or ask a knowledgeable friend to help you make a purchase.

You can get a great deal buying secondhand; but there's no warranty, and you can't return it if it breaks.

...with a friend's bike



"A friend of mine has a bike they never use. I wonder if I can borrow it for a few weeks."

Great idea, because you get to see whether their style of bicycle (mountain bike, hybrid or road bike) is the right style for you, *before* you invest in your own.

...with all bikes

Here are a few easy steps to follow:

1. **Test-ride...** Take the bike for a test ride through local streets until you feel balanced and confident enough for bigger roads.
2. **Get comfy...** Make additional adjustments for optimal comfort.
3. **And Ride!** Experience the joys of self-sufficient, healthy, sustainable transport.