

BIKE SAFE

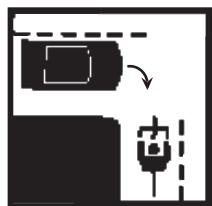
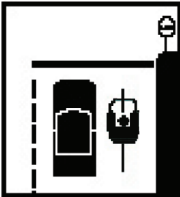


TIPS from TAPS

UC Santa Cruz
Transportation & Parking Services
831-459-2190
<http://www2.ucsc.edu/taps>

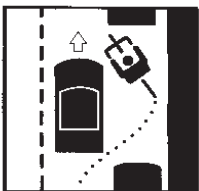
Choose the Safest Spot to Ride

Ride predictably. Cyclists must ride like motorists if they want to be taken seriously. Doing so is also the safest behavior.



Don't weave between parked cars. Motorists may not see you when you move back into traffic.

Always ride with traffic. Riding against traffic is one of the biggest causes of bike accidents.



Wear a Helmet

California law states that all children under 18 years of age are required to wear a bicycle helmet. For people over 18, wearing a helmet just makes sense.

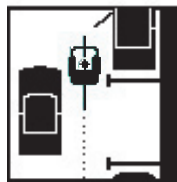
The law also requires all bicycles to be equipped for night riding with:

- A Headlight
- A Red Rear Reflector
- Two Side Reflectors on each Wheel
- Reflector Pedals

Light colored, reflective clothing makes you more visible to others. It's a good idea.

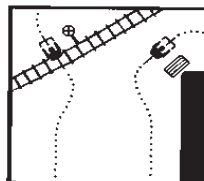


Ride in a straight line, to the right of faster moving traffic. And as far to the right as is *safe*, but not so far that you'll hit trash cans or opening car doors. If there's a bike lane, use it.

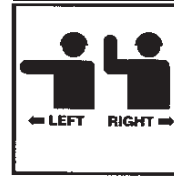


On narrow, two lane, two way roads with no marked bike lanes, it is sometimes necessary to pull into the traffic lane. To "**take the lane**," first look behind you, and when it's safe, signal and merge into the center of the right lane.

Avoid road hazards. Watch out for parallel-slat sewer grates, slippery manhole covers, oily pavement, gravel, and ice. Cross railroad tracks carefully at right angles.

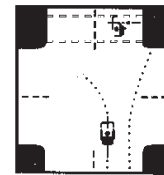
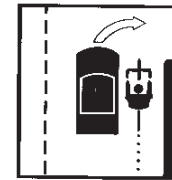


Ride Through Intersections Safely



Always signal your turns and moves so other bikes and cars will know what you're going to do.

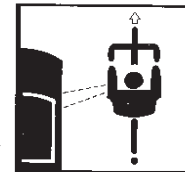
For right turns, position yourself in the middle of the right turn lane, so right turning cars will not cut you off.



For left turns, do a shoulder check to make sure it's clear behind you, signal, and cross into the left turning lane.

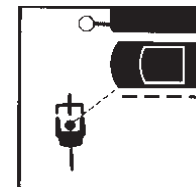
Pay Attention

Scan all around you. And learn to do a **shoulder check.** To do a shoulder check, ride in a straight line, and look over your shoulder.



Watch for pedestrians. Don't ride on sidewalks. Use the street, bike lane, or bike path. Warn pedestrians as you approach if you're on a shared path.

Eye contact with drivers is essential. Be especially aware at intersections to make eye contact.



Obey the Traffic Laws

Experienced cyclists know that they fare best when they act and are treated as drivers of vehicles.



According to published studies, bicyclists who rode by the rules, with the flow of traffic, have *five times* fewer accidents. So take yourself seriously – stop at stop signs and signals, and act with courtesy.

TIPS for Drivers

- If it's not safe to pass, don't. Wait until there's plenty of room and save the horn for emergencies.
- Always check over your shoulder before turning right into a driveway or at an intersection.
- Always check for bicyclists before turning left.
- Check the rear view mirror and look over your shoulder before opening your car door to make sure no bicyclists are coming. It's California State Law.

