

Ten Things All Drivers Should Know About Motorcycles



Ten Facts and Tips all Car and Truck Drivers should know about Motorcycles

- 1** There are a lot more cars and trucks than motorcycles on the road, and some drivers don't "recognize" a motorcycle – they ignore it – usually unintentionally.
Look for motorcycles, especially when checking traffic at intersections.
- 2** A motorcycle may look farther away than it is. It may also be difficult to judge a motorcycle's speed.
When checking traffic to turn at an intersection or into or out of a driveway, realize that a motorcycle is closer than it looks.
- 3** A motorcycle can be easily hidden in a car's blind spots or masked by objects or backgrounds outside a car such as bushes, fences and bridges.
Take an extra moment to thoroughly check traffic, whether you're changing lanes or turning at intersections.
- 4** A motorcycle may seem to be moving faster than it really is.
Don't assume all motorcyclists are speed demons.
- 5** Motorcyclists often slow by downshifting or merely rolling off the throttle, thus not activating the brake light.
Allow more following distance. At intersections, expect that a motorcyclist may slow down without visual warning.
- 6** Turn signals on a motorcycle usually are not self-canceling, thus some riders – especially beginners – sometimes forget to turn them off after a turn or lane change.
Watch for other signs that the motorcyclist is making a turn.
- 7** Motorcyclists often adjust position within a lane to be seen more easily and to minimize the effects of road debris, passing vehicles and wind.
Understand that motorcyclists adjust lane position for a purpose, not to allow you to share the lane with them or to be reckless or show off.
- 8** Maneuverability is one of a motorcycle's better characteristics, especially at slower speeds and with good road conditions.
But, don't expect a motorcyclist to *always* be able to dodge out of the way.
- 9** Stopping distance for motorcycles is nearly the same as for cars, but slippery pavement makes stopping quickly difficult.
Allow more following distance behind a motorcycle because it can't always stop "on a dime."
- 10** Motorcyclists are more vulnerable to injury in traffic collisions than other roadway users since they don't have the advantage of being surrounded by 3,000 pounds of steel.
When a motorcycle is in motion, think of it as a person.

If you or family members ride a motorcycle, the companies in the Sentry Insurance Group recommends the MSF RiderCourseSM to learn new skills or reinforce current skills. Call 1-800-446-9227 or visit www.msf-usa.org to enroll.