

Preparing to Ride

Bicycling is a fun and healthy exercise. Before riding your bicycle on roadways, take time to learn the rules. Many bicyclists are seriously injured in accidents because they are less protected than drivers of automobiles and/or they do not practice safe riding skills. By observing Illinois bicycle laws and following safety rules, your bicycling will be enjoyable and more importantly, safer!

The Law Says

625 ILCS 5/11-1502

Traffic laws apply to persons riding bicycles

Sec. 11-1502. Traffic laws apply to persons riding bicycles. Every person riding a bicycle upon a highway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle.

625 ILCS 5/11-1503

Riding on bicycles

Sec. 11-1503. Riding on bicycles. (a) A person propelling a bicycle shall not ride other than upon or astride a permanent and regular seat attached thereto.

(b) No bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped, except that an adult rider may carry a child securely attached to his person in a back pack or sling.

625 ILCS 5/11-1504

Clinging to vehicles

Sec. 11-1504. Clinging to vehicles. No person riding upon any bicycle, coaster, roller skates, sled or toy vehicle shall attach the same or himself to any vehicle upon a roadway.

625 ILCS 5/11-1505.1

Riding bicycles upon roadway

Sec. 11-1505.1. Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than 2 abreast, except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for their exclusive use. Persons riding 2 abreast shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic and, on a laned roadway, shall ride within a single lane subject to the provisions of Section 11-1505 (625 ILCS 5/11-1505).

625 ILCS 5/11-1506

Carrying articles

Sec. 11-1506. Carrying articles. No person operating a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle or article which prevents the use of both hands in the control and operation of the bicycle. A person operating a bicycle shall keep at least one hand on the handlebars at all times.

625 ILCS 5/11-1507

Lamps and other equipment on bicycles

Sec. 11-1507. Lamps and other equipment on bicycles. (a) Every bicycle, when in use at nighttime, shall be equipped with a lamp on the front, which shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and with a red reflector on the rear, of a type approved by the Department, which shall be visible from all distances from 100 feet to 600 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle. A lamp emitting a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear may be used in addition to the red reflector.

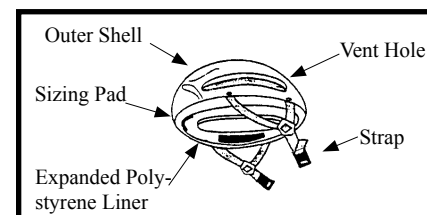
(b) A bicycle shall not be equipped with nor shall any person use upon a bicycle any siren.

(c) Every bicycle shall be equipped with a brake which will adequately control movement of and stop and hold such bicycle.

625 ILCS 5/11-1509

Inspecting bicycles

Sec. 11-1509. Inspecting bicycles. A uniformed police officer may at any time upon reasonable cause to believe that a bicycle is unsafe or not equipped as required by law, or that its equipment is not in proper adjustment or repair, require the person riding the bicycle to stop and submit the bicycle to an inspection and such test with reference thereto as may be appropriate.



Bicycle helmets are an essential element to bicycle safety. Always strap on an approved safety helmet before you ride. Helmets are an important safety device to protect your head and brain from injury. Every approved helmet contains a dense liner that absorbs most of the energy upon impact. The straps and buckle keep the helmet secure during a crash. All parts of the helmet work together to help prevent injury.

Bicycle Safety Tips

1. Wear a helmet at all times.
2. Obey all traffic laws, signs and signals.
3. Keep to the right and close to the curb or side of the road.
4. Keep brakes, lights, reflectors, horn or bell, and other safety devices in good working condition.
5. Learn and use the hand signals for turns and stops.
6. Give pedestrians and vehicles the right of way.
7. Avoid riding after dark. If you must ride after dark, the bicycle must have a headlight and red taillight or reflector. Wear something white.
8. Do not speed, race or weave in and out of traffic.
9. Do not carry passengers or big packages.
10. Never hitch on to a truck, car or moving vehicle.
11. Travel in single file when riding with others.
12. Keep both hands on the handle bars, except to signal a stop or turn.
13. Slow down at intersections.
14. Dismount and walk across dangerous intersections or streets. Do not turn or cross unless it is safe.
15. Never squeeze into narrow places or between two automobiles.
16. Avoid busy streets or highways. Bicycles are not allowed on most expressways, toll roads or interstates.

Bicycle Safety Rules

DO'S



Left Turn

Right Turn

Stop or Slow



Obey Traffic Signs

Keep to Right



Walk Across
Busy Intersections

Ride in Single File

DON'T'S

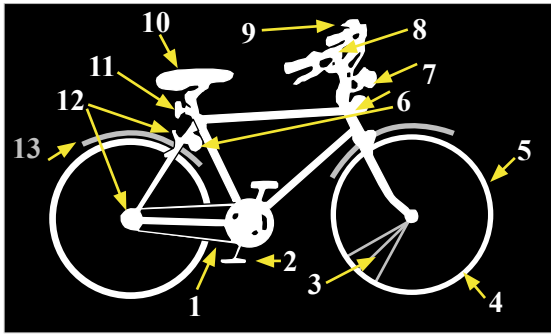


Don't Ride
Double

Don't
Stunt

Don't Hitch
Rides

Know Your Bicycle



1. Chain - Keep snug, clean and lubricated.
2. Pedals - Lubricate bearings and spindle, replace worn treads.
3. Spokes - Keep tight, replace broken ones promptly.
4. Wheels - Should rotate smoothly, lubricate bearings, keep axle nuts tight.
5. Tires - Inflate to correct pressure, which is stamped on the sidewall of the tire.
6. Side Reflectors - Colorless or amber on front and red on rear, visible from 500 feet.
7. Headlight - White light visible from 500 feet.
8. Handlebars and Grips - Properly adjusted and tight.
9. Bell or Horn - Be sure it works.
10. Saddle - Properly adjusted and tight.
11. Taillight or Red Reflector - Visible from a distance of 500 feet or 600 feet respectively.
12. Coaster Brakes or Hand Brakes - Must brake evenly every time, no slippage.
13. (If installed:) Fenders - Keep securely fastened.

Inspection Report

Owner _____

Make _____ Serial _____

Approved by

Registration No. _____ Date _____

Signature _____

INSPECTION REPORT

REAR WHEEL

- Brake needs adjustment O.K.
- Cone needs tightening O.K.
- Chain needs tightening O.K.
- Wheel needs straightening O.K.
- Spoke missing How many _____ O.K.
- Tire needs repair O.K.
- Remarks _____

FRONT WHEEL

- Brake needs adjustment O.K.
- Cone needs tightening O.K.
- Wheel needs straightening O.K.
- Spoke missing How many _____ O.K.
- Tire needs repair O.K.
- Remarks _____

HANDLEBARS, SEAT, CRANK HANGER

- Bars need tightening O.K.
- Gooseneck too loose O.K.
- Bars need grips O.K.
- Seat needs adjustment O.K.
- Remarks _____

- Hanger needs adjustment O.K.
- Pedals need repair O.K.
- Remarks _____

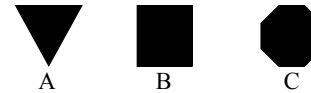
FRAME AND ACCESSORIES

- Frame weak needs repair O.K.
- Fenders need repair O.K.
- Headlight, none needs repair O.K.
- (If none, do not ride after sunset.)
- Taillight none needs repair O.K.
- or reflector, (If none, do not ride after sunset.)
- Horn or bell, none needs repair O.K.
- (Required by law)

Remarks _____

Bicycle Safety Test

1. Bicycle riders and automobile drivers should follow the same traffic rules. True False
2. Safe cyclists keep their bikes in good shape at all times. True False
3. A bike built with one seat should carry the rider only. True False
4. Water drain openings in the street can trap your wheel and make you fall. True False
5. By listening to the sounds of traffic you can often hear danger signs. True False
6. Which of these have the right-of-way on sidewalks and crosswalks? (a) cars (b) bikes (c) pedestrians
7. The best way to carry a package while riding a bike is: (a) tie to handlebars (b) in back pack or carrier (c) in rider's hand
8. The best way to be seen when riding a bike is: (a) put a bell on bike (b) wear a dark jacket (c) wear bright clothing
9. The safest way to put air in a bicycle tire is to use: (a) A hand pump and gauge (b) a service station air hose (c) an air compressor
10. Which of these is the shape of a stop sign?



To schedule a bicycle safety education program for your school or group please contact the Safety Education Unit office at (217) 524-2525 or contact your Illinois State Police District Headquarters

- 1. True
- 2. True
- 3. True
- 4. True
- 5. True
- 6. pedestrian
- 7. in back pack or carrier
- 8. wear bright clothing
- 9. a hand pump and gauge
- 10. C



Illinois State Police

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