

# Selected Bicycle State Laws

A cyclist is required to obey the same rules of the road as a motorist. A cyclist must give hand signals, observe signs and stop lights, yield the right of way when appropriate and keep a sharp look out for danger.

Here are a few of the laws to study, learn and follow:

A cyclist shall never ride opposite the flow of traffic.

Persons riding side by side shall not impede the normal and reasonable flow of traffic on the roadway.

Every bicycle in use at nighttime shall be equipped with a lamp on the front and a red reflector on the rear.

Bicycles may be ridden on roadway shoulders, except where expressly prohibited by law.

SOURCE: Texas Drivers Handbook; Texas Department of Public Safety, Chapter 13

# Bicycle Safety Tips

1. Always wear an approved helmet – they **do** save lives.
2. Take water (or a sports drink) with you.
3. Carry a tire pump, patch kit and spare tube and learn how to use them.
4. Take a good lock in case you want to secure your bike.
5. Try to select your lowest gear so your feet can spin smoothly while maintaining reasonable pressure on the pedals. This will reduce strain on your knees.
6. Avoid busy roads. Use less traveled residential streets whenever possible.
7. When riding near parked cars, be aware that car doors can suddenly open in front of you.
8. Let pedestrians and other cyclists know you are passing them with an audible warning before you pass.

# Share the Road

**Safely, Thoughtfully,  
Respectfully**

Tips for Bicyclist:

1. Be visible and predictable and signal appropriately.

2. Warn others when approaching. Bicycles must yield to pedestrians.

3. Share the road. Bicyclists must obey the same laws as any motorist.

Tips for Motorists:

1. Slow down as you approach a cyclist. Avoid use of your horn.

2. Be alert. Most common motorist/cyclist collisions occur at intersections.

3. Share the road. A bicyclist may delay your trip by seconds, but it's the other cars clogging the road that makes you late.

