

Ride RIGHT!

The traffic laws in Ohio and every other state say:

**Bicyclists must ride on the RIGHT side of the road,
WITH traffic—not against it!**

Why is this? *Why NOT ride facing traffic?*

1. Drivers of cars, walkers, and other cyclists never expect to find you there.
2. You can't see traffic signs or signals from the left side of the street.
3. If you're riding *toward* the cars, you come together faster. There's less time to avoid a crash.
4. If you're riding *toward* the cars, you'll hit much harder if there is a crash.
5. When drivers of cars pull into the road (from a stop sign or driveway), they won't look for somebody coming the wrong way. They'll pull right in front of you. And it'll be your fault!
6. If there isn't enough space for the car to pass you on the road, the driver can't wait until it's safe to pass. You'll get forced off the road into the ditch - or worse, into a head-on crash.
7. A wrong-way bicyclist is a real problem for another bicyclist riding correctly. Someone has to go into the ditch or into traffic.
8. Riding against traffic is one of the leading causes of serious bicycle accidents.
9. Riding against traffic is against the law. But don't worry about this one. They won't arrest you unless you're alive.

Is there any reason you SHOULD ride on the left, facing traffic?

1. You can see the driver's look of surprise just before he hits you!

IF YOU WANT TO KEEP AN EYE ON TRAFFIC, GET A REAR VIEW MIRROR!

SOME RULES OF THE ROAD FOR BICYCLISTS

1. Always ride on the right, *with* traffic, never against traffic.
 2. Never zoom into traffic from a drive or parking lot. Stop until it's clear.
 3. Never ride through a stop sign or red light. Bikes must stop too!
 4. Ride straight and steady. Don't ride like a squirrel! Don't zig-zag!
 5. Signal left turns, right turns and stops.
 6. Be careful on left turns. Don't turn from the gutter! First, check for traffic behind you. Then, when it's clear, signal and move toward the left side of your lane. Make your turn only when it's clear. If there's too much traffic, stop at the curb and walk your bike through the left turn.
 7. Don't ride too close to parked cars. A car door can open right in front of you.
 8. Watch out for loose gravel, potholes, drain grates, and railroad tracks.
 9. Never ride in the dark unless you have a good headlight, taillight, and all the right reflectors. And even then, stay out of traffic unless you're an expert.
 10. Don't ride double - unless your bike has two seats!
 11. Never carry packages in your hands. Use a backpack, bike rack or bike bag.
 12. ***REMEMBER! BIKES HAVE TO FOLLOW THE SAME RULES AS CARS!***
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A QUICK BIKE SAFETY CHECK

1. Be sure the bike isn't too big. Can you stand over the bike frame with your feet flat on the ground? Can you easily reach the seat, and pedals, and brakes?
2. Check the brakes. Make sure the bike stops quickly and easily. Adjust hand brakes so the levers don't squeeze all the way to the handlebars. Wheel rims must be straight, with no bumps to make the brakes grab. For coaster brakes, the brake arm must be attached to the bike frame.
3. Check the tires for good tread, no cuts, no bubbles, and plenty of air.
4. Be sure nothing on the bike is loose. Check all nuts and bolts.
5. You must have a headlight, taillight and reflectors after dark.
1. A bike helmet can prevent a nasty bump on the head.

IF YOU CAN'T FIX IT, TAKE IT TO A BIKE SHOP!