

WINTER BIKING TIPS

For In-Town Riding

Just like skiing, skating, or sledding, riding your bike in the winter can be a lot of fun! You don't need a lot of special equipment to get started; normal winter clothes will help you stay warm and dry. Check out these tips from your experienced neighbors!

1

Dress right. Wear warm clothes that are water and wind resistant. Some of the essentials include:

- A hat that will fit under your helmet and cover your ears.
- A neck warmer that you can cover your nose with.
- Wind resistant gloves. Gloves are preferred over mittens for gear shifting and dexterity.
- For snowy or rainy conditions*, you may want glasses or goggles.
- Reflective clothing and lights.



2

Dress your bike right. Winterizing your bike is key.

- Invest in snow tires. These tires have thick treads and studs to help you stay balanced on ice and snow. Wide tires are more stable in snowy and icy conditions.
- Fenders do an excellent job keeping you clean and dry.
- Front and rear lights are essential for keeping you visible in low light.
- Clean and maintain your bike's moving parts. Don't let snow, ice, and grit build up.
- Certain bike features will be lower maintenance in the winter: belt drives, internal gear hubs, and internal cables perform well because they are protected from the elements.

3

Practice before hitting the road. Most of the time, the roads are clear and dry. But for those times when the weather is bad, follow these tips:

- *Avoid riding during a snowstorm. Low visibility, changing snow depths, and people driving cars present real hazards. Wait until roads are clear. If you get stuck in a snowstorm and feel unsafe, dismount and walk your bike.
- Like driving, take time to learn how to handle your bike in winter conditions.
- After a storm you may encounter areas that can cause your bike to fish tail. Don't panic! Go slow until you regain your balance.
- If you hit a patch of ice, keep your center of gravity low and avoid braking suddenly and hard. Do your best to roll through it.
- Wet bike locks can freeze shut. Make sure parts are kept dry and lubricated.