

en español: <https://bikemonterey.org/resources/en-espanol>

BikeMonterey.org

Know state and local bike laws.

Here's a summary of some
California bicycle laws.

***What about biking on sidewalks
or in crosswalks, e-bike laws, and more?***

See [Resources / Los Recursos](#)
at bikemonterey.org
or [Resources](#) at calbike.org.

To advocate for a new California law to allow a "Bicycle Safety Stop" /
"Stop-As-Yield" / "Idaho Stop" at stop signs, contact CalBike.org.

1. **Stop at stop signs and red lights.** Essentially, "same roads, same rules, same rights." (*Bicycle riders on public roads have the same rights and responsibilities as motorists, and are subject to the same rules and regulations.* [CVC 21200.](#))
2. **Ride on right half of roadway**, i.e., "go with the flow." Unlike pedestrians (who are to walk on left of roadway, against traffic), bicyclists ride on right half of roadway, with the flow of traffic. (*Bicyclists must travel on right half of roadway in direction of motor vehicle traffic, except when passing, making a legal left turn, when right side of road is closed for construction, when riding on a one-way street, or when road is too narrow.* [CVC 21650.](#))
3. **Proper lane usage.** Learn more about biking on a roadway, including—but not limited to—when you can "take the lane." See Resources on bikemonterey.org and calbike.org, as well as details in California Vehicle Code ([CVC 21202.](#))
4. **Earplugs/earphones/headsets.** Hearing is crucial to safety; leave at least one ear open to the sounds around you. Despite common behavior and misinformation to the contrary, it's also required by law. (*Bicyclists may not wear a headset covering, earplugs in, or earphones covering, resting on, or inserted in, both ears. Hearing aids are allowed.* [CVC 27400.](#))
5. **Brakes—BMX, fixies, all bikes.** On roadways, bikes are illegal without brakes. (*Bicycles must be equipped with a brake that will enable one braked wheel skid on dry, level, clean pavement.* [CVC 21201\(a\).](#))
6. **Alcohol/drugs.** Don't get a BUI! (*Bicyclists may not ride while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.* [CVC 21200.5.](#))
7. **Helmets for minors.** If you're under 18, not wearing an approved helmet may result in a citation. (*Bicyclists and bicycle passengers under age 18 must wear an approved helmet.* [CVC 21212.](#))
8. **Permanent seat.** The bicycle's operator must have a permanent seat, unless designed by the manufacturer to be ridden without a seat. Passengers must have a separate seat. And passengers under four years old, or weighing 40 pounds or less, *must be retained in place and protected from moving parts of a bicycle.* ([CVC 21204.](#))
9. **Lights, reflectors.** The following equipment is required on bicycles ridden at night; [CVC 21201\(d\)](#):
 - A white headlight, or a white lamp attached to rider, visible from 300 feet in front of and from sides of the bicycle
 - A red reflector, or solid or flashing red light with built-in reflector, on rear of bicycle, visible from 500 feet to rear (be advised that although only a rear reflector is legally required, most bike safety advocates do recommend a rear light)
 - A white or yellow reflector on each pedal, or on shoes or ankles, visible from 200 feet to front and rear
 - A white or yellow reflector on each side of front half of bike, and a white or red reflector on each side of back of bike, or reflectorized front and back tire

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Bicycling Monterey—Info Hub for Biking Monterey
County and local partner of the California Bicycle
Coalition—is a volunteer effort since 2009.

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or at <https://bikemonterey.org>.

