

# Don't be a POSER ... it wouldn't end well for you!

## Use your head.

A full-face helmet that's approved by the DOT is the best choice. Modern helmets are strong, light weight and comfortable; they also cut down on wind noise and fatigue. The Snell Memorial Foundation recommends replacing a helmet every five years or sooner if it's been damaged or has been in a crash. You'll also want effective eye protection; don't rely on eyeglasses or a bike's windscreen.

## Wear the right gear.

Jeans, a T-shirt, and/or sandals are recipes for a painful disaster on a bike! Instead, you want gear that will protect you from wind chill, flying bugs and debris, and, yes, lots of road rash if you should slide out. For maximum protection, go for a leather or other reinforced jacket, gloves, full pants, and over-the-ankle footwear, even in summer. Specially designed jackets with rugged padding and breathable mesh material provide protection as well as ventilation for riding in warm weather. Be visible—choose gear in bright colors.



## Ride defensively.

Be extra alert! Keep an eye out for cars suddenly changing lanes or pulling out from side streets. Don't tailgate! Keeping a safe following distance is critical, both to ensure you have enough stopping distance and so you have time to react to obstacles in the road. An object that a car might easily straddle could be a serious hazard when on a bike.

## Avoid bad weather.

Slippery conditions reduce your margin for error. Rain not only cuts your visibility, but reduces your tires' grip on the road, which can make cornering tricky. If you need to ride in the rain, remember, the most dangerous time is right after precipitation begins, as the water can cause oil residue to rise to the top.

## Watch for road hazards.

A motorcycle has less contact with the pavement than a car. Sand, wet leaves, or pebbles can cause a bike to slide unexpectedly, easily resulting in a spill. Bumps and potholes that you might barely notice in a car can pose serious danger when on a bike. Railroad tracks and other hazards should be approached as close to a right angle as possible, to reduce the chances of a skid.

## Be ready to roll.

Before each ride, do a quick walk-around to make sure your lights, horn and directional signals are working properly. Check the chain, belt or shaft and the brakes. Inspect tires for wear and ensure they're set at the proper pressure.



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# Poser or Pro?

# Which are You?

**HEAD** – That beanie helmet *may* be legal and it may protect your head. *Maybe* not...you only have one brain so why take the chance?

**EYES, EARS AND FACE** – Watering eyes, deafened by wind blast and able to identify at least 25 different insects by their flavor...another mark of the poser.

## SHOULDERS AND ARMS

– Wish you hadn't gotten that "I Love..." tattoo just before the big break-up? No worries, getting personal with the pavement will remove that in no time.

**HANDS** – Think those half-finger gloves make you look cool? Real riders call those "Nose-pickers"—that's about all they're good for.

**KNEES** – Posers collect sunburn, windburn, flying debris and maybe road rash. Just remember, there's no such thing as a fenderbender when you're on a motorcycle.

**FEET** – Personal contact with the shift lever, brake pedal, hot engine or the asphalt will forever change your perspective on footwear...wind on the toes is not "cool!"



POSER



PRO

**HELMET** – Well fitted helmets are comfortable, quiet and protect you from impacts. They're a smart rider's first line of defense.

**FACE SHIELD** – Experienced riders know how many UFOs are out there and make sure they're prepared. Clear vision and saving face are a priority with pros.

**JACKET** – Armored, adjustable vents for changing weather conditions and highly visible to others. A good riding jacket is the pro's "home away from home."

**GLOVES** – provide a good grip on the bars as well as protecting those pinkies from flying objects, sun and cold. Pros have several pairs to adjust for changing conditions.

**PANTS** – Another important factor in preventing hypothermia, dehydration, sunburn and windburn. Also, most motorcycle injuries are to the lower extremities. Anyone who is "in the know", recognizes the value of comfort and protection from the road.

**BOOTS** – Provide comfort in hostile environments, protection from hot or sharp motorcycle parts and a good grip on the foot rests and the road. A pro knows the importance of all these.

