

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](https://bikemonterey.org)  
or [Resources](#) at [calbike.org](https://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](https://bikemonterey.org) and [calbike.org](https://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

Bicycling Monterey—Info Hub for Biking Monterey  
County and local partner of the California Bicycle  
Coalition—is a *volunteer* effort 2009-2026.

Please donate today. To donate, use QR code  
or donate at <https://bikemonterey.org>.

