

TOP TIPS ON WINTER BIKING

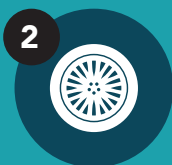


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It's that time of the year again when you need your waterproofs and winter gloves. Hi-visibility clothing is important during the day, and reflective clothing is essential when travelling in the dark.



Give your tyres a proper check. The tyre tread should be no less than 2mm in the winter, as opposed to the legal requirement of 1mm.



The colder it is, the more work the battery has to do. Check your battery is fully charged and in good condition, if not replace it.



The cold weather can cause moisture to collect in the electrical connections. Take time to spray them with an anti-corrosion product to keep them lubricated.



Check the front and rear brake fluid reservoir levels. If they're low, top them up or consult your dealer. It's worth checking your brake pads too – if they are near the wear limit then get them changed as soon as possible.

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Keep an anti-mist product with you in case condensation builds up on the inside of your helmet visor – particularly useful in rain and foggy weather.



Avoid using full beam as this will only dazzle other road users.



Riding in low sun makes it difficult to see ahead, be prepared to slow down.



If road conditions are wet and slippery, leave more distance between you and the vehicle in front and ride at a steady pace, giving you more reaction time and braking distance should you need it.



Avoid riding through patches of wet leaves or diesel spills as they can easily make your bike lose traction, or puddles as they might be concealing potholes. Keep an eye out for hazards ahead and adjust your riding accordingly.