

Motorcycle Newbie's



If you are new to the motorcycle world and completed the Basic Riders Motorcycle Safety Foundation course you are an absolute genius.

Taking a motorcycle safety class before riding and or purchasing a bike helps you learn how to ride a bike the correct way and it prevents you from hurting yourself and others. Now that you have completed your basic motorcycle safety class purchasing a bike may be your next move. If so there a number of thing you should take into consideration before buying and riding a motorcycle.

What should I look for in a beginner motorcycle?

- **Height** - should be taken note of when looking for a bike. Make sure the bike fits you comfortably.
- **Weight** - The heavier the bike the harder it is to control.
- **Preferred type** - know what type of bike you are looking for whether it be a sport bike or a cruiser. Look for a beginner bike.
- **Horsepower** - A new motorcycle rider doesn't need 100+ horsepower in their first motorcycle.
- **Racing Technology** There's no need to have racing technology in a entry-level motorcycle, so it simply isn't there. Is this a bad thing? Not really (keep reading).
- **Power Bands**- An experienced rider may not have a problem handling sudden power surges, but that's the kind of thing that could send a new rider for an asphalt-filled adventure.

There's a reason that "beginner motorcycles" exist: they provide a safer base that a motorcycle rider can use to hone his or her skills. The fact that they are quick, fuel efficient, and easy on the wallet is simply a bonus. Ultimately, your needs determine what motorcycle is appropriate for you. However, when you're shopping, there's always one thing you should never forget: it's much more fun to ride a smaller motorcycle at or near its limits than it is to ride a larger motorcycle passively. The peaky power-band of a super sport might kill an inexperienced rider. Unlike a car, there is no steel cage protecting you. If you get into an accident there is very little between you and the pavement. For that reason along it is crucial that you are as safe as possible.

Safety Tips

- **Have all of the right gear** - always ride All The Gear All The Time (ATGATT)
- **Ensure that you are as prepared as possible before you ride**
- **Do not ride with passengers until you have a lot of riding time under your belt**

Many new riders don't realize just how much a passenger changes the way a motorcycle behaves. As always, stay within the posted speed limits and don't override your comfort zone. If you're riding in a group and the group is moving at a pace that you aren't 100% comfortable with slow down and stay safe!