

How to Choose the Right Motorcycle



It can be a challenge for both first-time riders and experienced riders to choose the right motorcycle. It can be overwhelming to consider all of the factors that go into making this big purchase. If you are new to riding and are looking to purchase a new motorcycle, you may be asking yourself these three questions:

1. Which motorcycle is right for me?
2. What motorcycle is the safest to ride?
3. What safety features should I look for when purchasing a motorcycle?

What makes a motorcycle safe? Obviously, we know that riding a motorcycle poses much more risk than driving another type of vehicle like a truck or a car. The goal should be to reduce or limit your risk by looking for “safer” options when choosing the right motorcycle. Here are some things we recommend you consider when shopping for your new bike:

Height and Size (Fit) of the Motorcycle

Make sure the height and size of the motorcycle fits you properly. Be sure you can reach all controls easily, that your both feet can touch the ground when you are standing and stopped, and that you can reach the shift levers with your feet.

Adjusting Your Motorcycle for a Good Fit

An easy way to adjust the fit of your motorcycle is to change the seat, which increases the rider’s control of the bike and can make it easier for your feet to reach the controls. It can also make the bike more comfortable. Another adjustment that can be made is to the bike’s suspension. This can enhance the overall performance and make rides more enjoyable by simply adding to the existing motorcycle style.

Skill Level and Engine Size

Be realistic about your riding skill level when you are looking for a new bike. Motorcycle companies like to advertise the biggest and newest motorcycles on the market in order to grab the attention of consumers, but that does not mean those are the best choice for you as a rider. It is recommended that new riders start with a smaller engine motorcycle until their skill level improves. Also think about how the motorcycle will be used. Will you be riding it to work in the city? If so, you won’t be zipping down the highways on open road, which means you really don’t need a bike with a big engine.

Motorcycle Types

There are several different types of motorcycles on the market and each is designed a little differently. It is a good idea to test out different types of motorcycles before making your final decision.

Here are some of the common styles that riders choose from:

- Standard bikes
- Sport bikes
- Cruiser bikes
- Touring bikes
- Dual-sport bikes

You are probably wondering if one of these types of bikes is considered “safer” than the others, but that all depends on the rider’s skill level and preparedness for the area in which they are riding.

Maintaining Your Motorcycle

One of the key factors when it comes to riding safety is motorcycle maintenance. Things that can bring extra risk to your ride are worn out tires, bad cables, bad breaks, etc. Be sure to ask and look at maintenance records if you are considering the purchase of a used motorcycle. Ask the owners of a used bike if the maintenance was done at a professional shop and if they have kept the receipts for any work done or parts purchased.

You will also want to conduct your own maintenance check on a used motorcycle. Be sure to look at the condition of the tires. Bad tires are one of the biggest safety issues to be aware of when maintaining your bike. Take a close look at the condition of the tires and address maintenance regularly so you do not have safety issues later on.

Motorcycle Safety Features

The safety features on motorcycles have improved significantly over the years. Manufacturers have added new improvements to increase rider safety. Here are just a few of the more recent safety features added to motorcycles:

- **LED lighting** – adds more visibility
- **Anti-lock brakes** – the addition of ABS has shown to lower fatalities in motorcycle crashes by 43%
- **Onboard diagnostics** – Our cars already have onboard diagnostics, but now this feature is being added to the newer motorcycles.
- **Stability control** – New stability monitoring helps analyze traction and lean-angle for turning corners.
- **Three-wheelers** – There are many people who love riding, but no longer have the ability to handle a two-wheeled motorcycle. Three-wheel trikes are now being offered as a riding option and have gained in popularity.

Be safe and protect yourself when you are out riding.

If you or someone you know has been injured in a motorcycle accident, talk with our experienced motorcycle accident attorneys at **MaxPower Law**. Call **425-970-9300** today and set up a free consultation.

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Tips for Beginner Riders

If you recently passed your motorcycle riding course, here are some tips to consider while shopping for your first motorcycle:

- **Get a motorcycle that fits your current skill level.** You will want to start by getting used to riding a smaller motorcycle that is easier to handle and maneuver. As you develop your riding skills over the next year or two, then consider upgrading to a larger or newer bike.
- **Start with a used motorcycle.** As you are learning to ride you don't want to worry about dings and scratches happening on your bike. Master your riding skills first on a used bike and then consider investing in something nice once you are comfortable with your skill level.
- **Be prepared.** Both you and your bike need to be prepared to ride safely. Never ride while intoxicated or while you are tired.

Riding a motorcycle requires your full attention in order to assess for risks out on the road and to maintain your safety.

Your lifestyle and personality will play a big role in making the best decision when choosing a new bike. Safety will always be a concern for both new and experienced riders. Think about the type of riding you plan to do and be sure to find a motorcycle that matches your riding style and level of skill. The goal is to find a bike that fits your safety needs and physical profile.

Enjoy and safe riding!



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