

Riding in the Rain

General Tips:

1. Dress for the conditions, with excellent rain gear, gloves, helmet, etc.
2. Tuck your gloves under your sleeve cuffs, so the water will not drain into your gloves.
3. Put your rain hood on under your helmet to avoid a stream of water down your back.
4. Anticipate upcoming actions, so you have time to execute smoothly. For example, turns, stop lights, oncoming traffic evasion, lane changes, etc.
5. Be especially cautious of manhole covers, painted lane stripes, crosswalks, lane markers, metal railroad grating, toll booths, etc.
6. Remember light rain raises oils to the surface and may be more dangerous than a heavy downpour.
7. The time to ensure you have adequate tread depth ($> 3/16^{\text{th}}$) & proper inflation is *before* it starts raining! Low inflated tires dramatically increase the chance of hydroplaning.
8. *“If it’s slick or black, ride another track.”*

Maneuvering Tips:

1. Make every action very deliberately – *almost slow motion*. Think “Ultra smooth”
2. Initiate all turns very gradually and slow down well before you reach the curve or intersection.
3. Downshift very smoothly and engage the clutch more slowly and gradually than normal.
4. Avoid abrupt throttle changes, both rolling on and rolling off.
5. Consider a higher gear to reduce the thrust applied to the rear wheel.
6. Apply the brakes in such a way that the tires are not loaded or unloaded abruptly. Riders should apply 50% front - 50% rear brakes, using gradually increasing pressure. *Squeeze*, do not jerk.
7. If you start to hydroplane, do not brake, keep the front wheel pointed straight and pray.