



# 10-4

A weekly Q&A  
with local  
law enforcement

Submit your question to [news@owatonna.com](mailto:news@owatonna.com) or 444-2379

## Q: When riding my bicycle, do I have to follow the same traffic laws as motorists?

A: The answer is *yes*. Though most people are unaware of it, bicyclists are expected to follow the same traffic laws as motorists. Keep the following things in mind:

1. **Ride on the right:** Always ride in the same direction as traffic and use the lane furthest to the right that heads in the direction that you are traveling.

2. **On the road:** The same laws that apply to motorists apply to cyclists; obey all traffic control devices, such as stop signs, lights, and lane markings; always use hand signals to indicate whether you're going to stop or turn.

3. **Always wear a properly fitted helmet:** Make sure the helmet fits on top of your head, not tilted to the back or front; always wear a helmet while riding a bike, no matter how short the trip may be; after any crash or any impact that affects your helmet, whether visible or not, replace it immediately.

4. **Ride predictably:** Ride in a straight line, don't swerve into the road or between parked cars; check for oncoming traffic before entering any street or intersection; anticipate hazards and adjust position in traffic accordingly.

5. **Be visible:** Wear brightly colored clothing at all times; at night, use a white front light and a red rear light or reflector and reflective tape or clothing; make eye contact with motorists to let them know that you are there.

**MEREDITH BROSE**  
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