

TIP OF THE WEEK # 12

🚲 Road Conditions

There are a number of road conditions that are hazardous and should to be considered BEFORE you first encounter them. A little practice when you find them will give you a great advantage when you first encounter them on a group ride.

Gravel

On approaching, sit back, shift to the next higher gear, grip the bar top or brake lever hoods firmly, and steadily pedal through. The *bigger gear slows your cadence so you have a bit more control.*

Wet Conditions

Painted lines. They can be as slippery as ice when they are wet. Be wary entering any corner in urban areas where there may be painted crosswalks or other road markings. Approach them just like rail road tracks - slow down and try to cross them at a right angle with your bike upright.

Railroad tracks

Cross tracks at as much of a 90-degree angle as you can (see figure 1) to avoid getting the tires caught in the ruts or sliding on the metal. Slow down because hitting the tracks while going fast can damage your rims. Wet tracks are slippery. A bike tire can slide on them causing you to fall down. Use extreme caution.

Wet metal. This includes manhole covers, plates, grates, metal bridge surfaces, etc. Slow down and do your best to cross wet metal at a right angle with your bike upright.

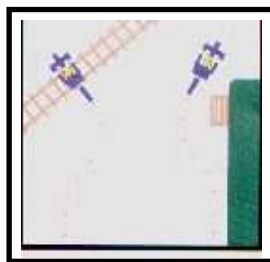


Figure 1

Leaves

Leaves generally aren't a problem when you're riding straight through them (except for hidden dangers like a coke can or a pothole). But if they are wet and in a corner, they can be slippery. Same approach as a manhole cover or painted surfaces - cross directly (not leaning into a turn) and with your bike upright.