

6 RIDING TIPS FOR DEALING WITH TAILGATERS



Tailgaters are some of the most annoying people a rider encounters on the road. Like a lot of other idiots on the road, our rage for them comes from the simple fact that their stupid driving mannerism can kill us, or cause some serious injury.

Tailgaters make a biker feel like there's a sword hanging above his head. Except, in this case, a 2500-pound ball of metal could come and ram us.

While a lot of us want to just tell these idiots to shove one up their posterior, that's not the best thing to do. Nobody, really nobody, ever benefits from road rage. However, below are some of the smart things that you CAN do!

1. Check Your Own Speed

If you find yourself being tailgated quite often, it's probably time to introspect. It's probably not because the driver behind you is an idiot, but probably because you ride slower than the speed of traffic. That's not to say that you should zip through roads at the limit, but just go with the flow!

2. Let Them Pass

I know that's going to hurt the big fat male ego in some of you. But that's just the smart thing to do. No matter what, a tailgater does spoil the fun of riding. So, why let somebody piss you off, when you can just take the curb, let them pass, and continue with your fun?!

3. Increase Following Distance

This is a little tricky to do. If you speed up, chances are, they'll speed up to, and again end up tailgating you. So, the way to do it is first to reduce your speed, so they have to, too. And then, speed up a bit to create a safety cushion of about 3 seconds.

4. Smart Lane Positioning

The real danger from a tailgater comes from the fact that they may not be able to stop in time, and end up running you over, if you have to suddenly brake. So, try to not let that situation come up in the first place. Position yourself in the lane such that you can have a view of the vehicle ahead of the one you're following. This way you'll know of the obstacles before they've come your way, and you can use that to slow down gradually, instead of hitting it hard.

Also, position yourself at the side of a lane, whichever you prefer. That'll not only give you a better view of the road conditions ahead, but give you and the tailgater both a better chance of avoiding a collision.

5. Communicate Early

Just because you shouldn't communicate a "F_ck You" to the tailgater, doesn't mean you can't communicate how dumb you think they are. Just be smart about it. If they're tailgating you, they're probably already a dumbnut, and need more time to process things. So, give them that. Before you have to come to a stop or reduce your speed significantly, hit the brakes 2-3 times, so the red light flashes for them, before you actually start to slow down. Similarly, before turning, give the indicators at least 4 seconds in advance.

6. Stay Calm

Last, but not the least, stay calm. Don't go all middle fingers and shouting slurs on them. If you're lucky, they'll pull over and return your favors. And if you aren't, and have encountered an absolute nutcase, they'll run you over. As I said in the beginning, road rage never helps anybody!