



50 WAYS TO DROP YOUR BIKE

ABSTRACT

You are not a real biker until you have dropped your motorcycle. Sometimes it can be scary and dangerous, sometimes funny, but dropping your bike is not a matter of “if”, it’s a matter of “when”.

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The only word of precaution: always wear protective gear. No matter that it's hot outside and you actually riding a cruiser. Everybody who experienced a road rash once, will second that! Never jeopardize safety!

1. You get off the bike and forget the kickstand. Works like a charm, especially if your normal parking routine is affected by anything.
2. Even more stupid: you actually kicked your kickstand. So, you are getting off to discover that the kickstand bounced back...
3. Showing off. Many options, but all end up the same way...
4. You stop for a stop sign or a traffic signal, and your foot gets onto something slippery.
5. You stop for a traffic lights, and your foot gets into a pothole. Especially, when the bike is too high for you.
6. Exceeding cornering limitations of your motorcycle. I.e. turning too fast.
7. Good front tire and bold rear tire.
8. Bold tires on wet road.
9. Sandy asphalt and full panic stop. Works even better when the road is bumpy as well.
10. Full panic stop on a curve. This will not be a problem if you practice '3S' rule (straighten, square, squeeze).
11. No due diligence when securing your bike to the deck of a ferry.
12. You are getting off a ferry. The car deck is wet and slippery. But you decide not to walk the bike, and put your feet on the pegs. Then you have to brake. Done.
13. You stop and when you are trying to put feet on the ground, you discover that your trouser caught a peg. This depends on the design of the bike. But after I experienced that on a dirtbike at motorcycle courses, I always either tuck my jeans into the boots or wear tapered motopants.
14. The same story, but this time your shoelace winds around the shift lever.
15. Your passenger decides to help you to lean the bike.
16. You allow your passenger to get on the bike first. If you don't want to repeat this mistake, follow the procedure: you mount on the bike first, hold it firmly, and only then your passenger gets on.
17. Target fixation: you focus on an obstacle instead of your trajectory.
18. You have just serviced your bike (changing engine oil, transmission fluid or even lubing the chain) and spilled some oil or oily fluid onto a tire. You are so happy that you decide to ride right away. And, of course, you forget to wipe off tires and throttle in the first (maybe second or third) corner. Voila!



SAFETY QUIZZ

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19. Wrong distribution of the cargo. I have a friend who dropped his bike while just loading it, without even starting.
20. Lack of throttle control. Especially, inadvertent throttling while cornering.
21. Riding without protective gear. Works like magic!
22. You parked your bike on a steep heel. This time you did not forget about kickstand, but left the bike in neutral.
23. Stunt riding on streets.
24. Parking too close behind somebody's van or truck.
25. Blood alcohol level higher than zero.
26. An attempt to get rid of an insect (a bee or a wasp) up your sleeve, while riding or just sitting on the bike.
27. A blind curve and your assumption that nothing has changed with the road since the last time you rode here.
28. Wrong assumption that all wet roads are equal. You may discover that some of them are a little bit more equal.
29. A lame attempt to swing your leg up the saddle of a lightweight motorcycle.
30. Overexcitement (racing someone or after a winter PMS – Parked Motorcycle Syndrome) and a feeling of invincibility.
31. Folklore. But my father-in-law swears he has witnessed this very case... Signal light turned green. You throttle, put your feet on the footrests... And discover that you forgot to shift to first gear from neutral.
32. When getting your motorcycle on the centerstand, you lose balance together with the bike.
33. You have arrived. The engine is still working. You are getting off and forget that the bike is on gear.
34. Fading brakes. Your bike has just climbed Mount Washington. On your way back you don't let the brakes cool down enough. And you are using both brakes. One fine moment you apply brakes and nothing happens...
35. You have just experienced fading brakes. Now the brakes cooled down. Don't forget to pump the brakes and test them. Otherwise highly likely there will be no brakes next time you need them.
36. The same is applicable after a brake fixing. Check your brakes before each ride!
37. Wet fallen leaves.
38. Streetcar tracks. Especially when wet.
39. The chain brakes so that your rear wheel is locked.



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40. Domino effect. You park your steel horse at a free parking spot on a centerstand. Your colleague decides to reuse the same spot for his bike, so he parks it beside yours. And forgets to put sidestand down. I was very close to repeat this trick in my uncle's garage with his bike.
41. Lane splitting when wet.
42. It has just started raining. You stopped in front of an intersection in the middle of the lane (exactly when oil from cars accumulates). A holeshoot... Done.
43. You put your bike on a kickstand, but forgot to turn its front wheel to the left. Or even worse – absentmindedly you turned it to the right. Then anybody pushes the bike by accident, and it drops. Especially, if the surface is not level enough.
44. Sudden stop on a heavy motorcycle with a front wheel turned.
45. From my friend Darren's piggy bank (he is a track day enthusiast): he was trying to overpass another guy using the outer edge of a curve. And very close to the guy, who made a jerky gear shift on a curve, and his rear wheel swept my friend's bike off the tarmac.
46. Excessive effort to lift your bike after you dropped it... And it drops the other side. And you may end up landing on top of it.
47. Your passenger gets on or off the bike without making sure that you're ready.
48. Pulling off the road. Without actually making sure that shoulder surface is even enough.
49. A vigorous attempt to kick a dog chasing you.
50. Not analyzing your rides. Analyzing your rides, a habit to constantly ask yourself a question: "What if" and ability not to panic save more lives than ABS and cool bells and whistles of the modern vehicles.