



Motorcycle Tire Hydroplaning

By Mark Manley— Safety Officer

Too many people believe that the shape and size of motorcycle tires will prevent them from hydroplaning. This is a dangerous misconception.

The truth is just like any other vehicle, hydroplaning on a motorcycle is a real possibility. In fact due to the fact of rider vulnerability, hydroplaning on a motorcycle can have some disastrous results.

What Causes A Motorcycle To Hydroplane?

When a bike encounters a wet surface, the shape and tread are designed to channel water away. This ensures the tire has contact with the road.

However, when a bike is traveling at increased speed, this channeling process becomes less effective.

The bike becomes more susceptible to losing traction, and the chances of hydroplaning increase.

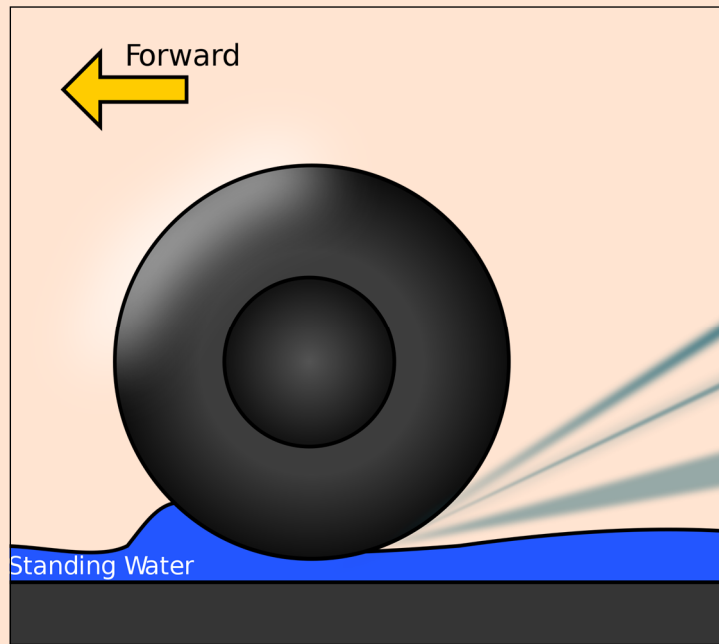
Motorcycle Safety is all about educating yourself.

To decrease your chances of hydroplaning and lessen the possibility of a motorcycle accident, keep the following safety tips in mind:

- **Proper PSI** In terms of hydroplaning, tire pressure is a critical component. When tires are properly inflated they are less likely to lose contact with the road at higher speeds.
- **Speed** Hydroplaning is more likely to happen at higher speeds. For example, you're more like-

ly to hydroplane at 60 mph as opposed to 40 mph. When riding on a wet road keep your motorcycle at a more moderately comfortable speed.

- **Braking and Turning** Your goal is to maintain as much tire contact with the road at all times. When the road is wet avoid making sudden movements when braking or turning. Instead every movement should be slow and deliberate.
- **Standing Water** The more water on the roadway, the greater the chances of hydroplaning.



the greater the chances of hydroplaning. Avoid areas of areas of high standing water. If it's unavoidable slow down as you transition through it.

- **Losing Control** If you find yourself hydroplaning, don't panic and hit the brakes or steer wildly.

This will only cause you to lose control of the bike. Instead, simply roll off power and ride in a straight-line.

In the end, the best advice is to use caution. By keeping the above motorcycle tips in mind you can increase overall safety and satisfaction of your ride.

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