

Washington Motorcycle Laws

This list of laws is provided by Puget Sound Safety and is not a complete listing of laws regarding motorcycles additional requirements may apply. To read additional law requirements please visit the Washington State Legislative [Laws and Agency Rules](#) website.

This reference list is divided into three sections for easy reference:

1. [Rider](#)
2. [Operating \(riding\)](#)
3. [Equipment](#)

| Rider | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| RCW 46.20.505 | Special endorsement fees, amount and distribution |
| WAC 204-10-026 | Eye protection |
| RCW 46.37.530 | Mirrors, helmet & eye protection, no passengers under five years old |
| RCW 46.04.330 | Motorcycle definition |
| RCW 46.20.500 | Motorcycle endorsement exceptions |
| RCW 46.20.510 | Motorcycle instruction permit |
| RCW 46.37.530 | Motorcycles, motor-driven cycles, mopeds, electric-assisted bicycles - Helmets, other equipment - Children - Rules |
| RCW 46.20.515 | Motorcycle skills testing |

| Operating – Riding | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| RCW 46.61.612 | Riding; one leg must be on each side of motorcycle |
| RCW 46.61.670 | Driving with wheels off roadway |
| RCW 46.61.608 | Lane splitting prohibited |
| WAC 468-510-010 | High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) |
| RCW 46.61.425 | Minimum speed and passing |
| RCW.61.120 | Limitations on overtaking on the left |
| RCW.46.61.608 | Operating motorcycle lined for traffic (no lane splitting) |
| RCW.46.61.660 | Carrying persons/animals outside of vehicle |

| Equipment | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| RCW 46.61.611 | Handlebars; no higher than 30" above seat |
| RCW 46.37.523 | Headlamps |
| RCW 46.16A.200 | License plate mounted horizontally |
| RCW 46.37.522 | Lights must be on when vehicle is in motion |
| RCW 46.37.537 | Modified exhaust |
| WAC 173-62-030 | Motorcycle sound testing |
| RCW 46.61.610 | Riding; seats and foot pegs required |
| RCW 46.37.525 | Tail lamps, reflectors, stop lamps |
| RCW 46.37.420 | Tires – restrictions |

For insurance requirements in Washington, visit the Department of Licensing web page.

Definitions:

What does RCW mean?

RCW stands for the Revised Code of Washington. The RCW is the compilation of all permanent laws now in force in Washington State. It is a collection of Session Laws (enacted by the Legislature and signed by the Governor or enacted via the initiative process).

What does WAC mean?

WAC stands for the Washington Administrative Code. The WAC's are rules generated by a State Agencies. Where RCW is a law enacted by the Legislature and signed by the Governor a WAC is the rule that implements/enforces the law.

