INDEGO WINTER RIDING GUIDE





Hey, Indego Passholders! Feeling nervous about biking in the winter? Don't want the cold temps to stop you from having fun? We hear you! So we've compiled a list of tips and tricks from Indego staff and partners to help keep you safe, warm and enjoying biking through the cold winter months.

After all, Indego operates all year long!

Read on to learn more about how you can stay toasty and warm as you pedal toward warmer months.





KRISTIN GAVIN, GENERAL MANAGER

You know those plastic grocery bags that are awful for the environment? Well they are GGRREEEAATTT wind barriers. When it's super cold, I use them over my socks and under my shoes....

JAKE SIEMIAROWSKI, HEAD BIKE MECHANIC

Layers, layers, layers.

Good gloves and shoes are indispensable.

Cover your face: Balaclavas, buffs, etc are helpful.

CAROLYN JACOB, CUSTOMER SERVICE REP

Over and above all else: warm gloves and thick socks. At least for me, so long as my hands and feet are warm, I'll bike happily all winter.

CLAUDIA SETUBAL, ACCESS MANAGER

I am lucky to have a strong internal furnace, which means I heat up about 10 minutes into my commute. That means I need easily removable layers, especially around the neck area. Current favorite combination is a high-collared coat + a neck buff + a wool scarf. Warm and stylish!



GEAR TIPS













PROTECTION LAYER

WARMTH LAYER

COMFORT LAYER

INSULATION







SUSAN DANNENBERG, BICYCLE COALITION

Wool is warm, cotton is cold! Your feet will sweat even when it's super cold outside. Smartwool is especially great because it's not itchy, their stuff tends to look like normal clothing, and they have cool patterns for their socks.

ALISON COHEN, CEO OF BIKE TRANSIT

Lobster gloves are key for the hands; Hat and face muff are key for the face; For the super cold days, feet booties are key, and I started wearing 80's legwarmers! Windproof jacket (Patagonia R4 has been my awesome standby for the last 11 years; but our new Bike Transit Bontrager jackets are pretty sweet); and of course long underwear and some thick socks.

KIERA SMALLS, COMMUNITY RELATIONS MANAGER

To keep me going, I wear a New Balance Wind Blocker Jacket that has water- and wind- resistance fabric in it! I love that it's lightweight so I don't have to wear heavy clothing. I also wear two pairs of gloves. And when it rains, I wear a hat under my helmet to protect my glasses.

JOHN BOYLE, BICYCLE COALITION

Long underwear (or bicycle tights) and lighter non-denim pants are warmer and offer more freedom of movement than heavy jeans. Wear a balaclava or a neck gaitor that can be pulled up to cover your face. On cold blustery winter days the wind is usually blowing from the west, so always try to bike with the wind at your back.





AARON RITZ, CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

For riding below the freezing point, or when winter winds blow hard, a pair of good ski goggles is truly indispensable; they keep your eyes from watering and actually function as an amazing face warmer. My other quick tip is that a simple pair of exam gloves (latex, nitrile or other) under your warm mitts gives about 10 additional degrees of warmth. By blocking the sweat that comes off of your hands, you keep the insulation in the gloves working to its maximum potential.

Fun facts about my winter riding: I only missed one day of riding to work because of weather —freezing rain that left a quarter inch of ice on the road in the winter of 2011.

KATIE MONROE, BICYCLE COALITION

I am a HUGE fan of the Heattech line from Uniqlo! They are perfect "base layers" -- the layer to have right against your skin. They're comfortable and layer well with my work clothes, and they have both leggings and tops as well as a bunch of outerwear accessories.

NATE OSHEYACK, BICYCLE MECHANIC

My trick is when it's really cold, I'll put my warm weather gear and gloves on and let myself get warm in my house before I leave. That way I don't start my ride off trying to get warm, I'm warm from the beginning.



GEAR TIPS

















CAITLIN HONAN, MY MILKCRATE

Snow naturally creates a different landscape and so cars don't see bikers as easily -- plus, plowed roads create less space for all sharing the road. Be seen and consider wearing reflective tape! On top of that, always make sure the people you are sharing the road with can anticipate your next move. Using signals is key!

BETTER BIKE SHARE PARTNERSHIP TEAM

Always check the tires, seat and brake levers before checking out a bike.

Ride slower! You have a lot more reaction time and control in winter weather if you're not going fast. (Exception: try and get up the hills as fast as you can and you'll warm right up!)

Beware black ice - especially on the edges of the road. If you find yourself on any kind of ice, don't turn or brake - coast through it until you are completely past it.

Choose routes carefully: Smaller streets and bike lanes sometimes go unplowed in the winter. You may have to reconsider your favorite routes for a few months - keep experimenting! You are allowed to ride in the middle of the lane and cars are required to pass with 4 feet of space. If you feel unsafe, you can always move over to let cars pass you at an intersection when it is safe to do so.

