

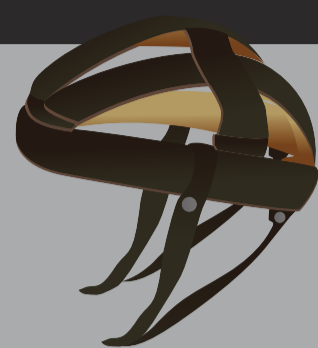
# EVOLUTION OF THE BICYCLE HELMET

HIGHLIGHTING THE ADVANCEMENTS IN HELMET SAFETY TO HELP REDUCE THE RISK OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

While bicycles are a fun, healthy way to get around; cyclists face serious risks—including traumatic brain injury. In 2015, over 1,000 bicyclists died in the U.S.—and nearly 467,000 suffered crash-related injuries.<sup>1</sup> Luckily, a well-fitted, correctly rated bicycle helmet can prevent 60% of head injury deaths and reduce the risk of head injury by 85%.<sup>2</sup>

Shortly before the turn of the 20th century, early cyclists began using simple "helmets" made of strips of lightly padded leather offering little protection.

1888

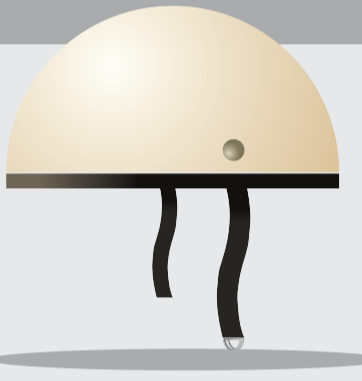
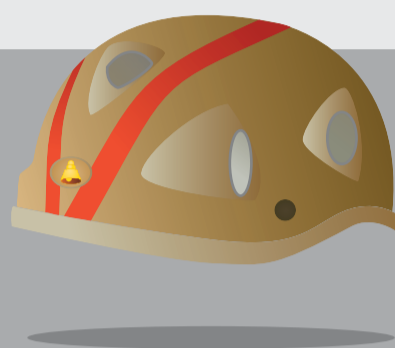


1970

In 1970, the Snell Foundation introduced the first U.S. standards for bicycle helmets. Previously, only a light motorcycle helmet could meet this standard.

In the mid-1970s, Bell introduced their "Biker" bicycle helmet which featured an inner liner made from crushable Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) foam.

1974

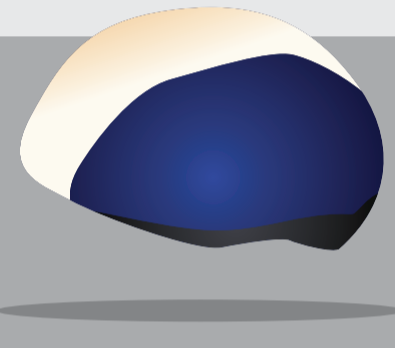


1981

In the early 1980s, Dr. Hal Bailen introduced the first multi-sized, adjustable bicycle helmet. This design featured both internal and external hard shells.

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) develops revised standards for bicycle helmets in the U.S.—removing less-effective helmets from shelves.

1984

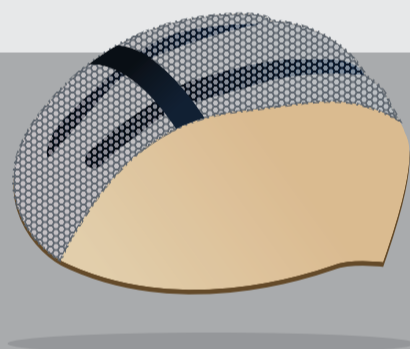


1986

The Giro Prolight did away with hard outer shells entirely. It used more EPS foam—wrapped in a cosmetic Lycra covering—to produce a lighter helmet.

The lightweight "Mirage" from Pro-Tec, an internally reinforced, all-EPS helmet, featured nylon mesh inserted in the foam and visible through the vents.

1988



1991

Advances in injection-molding techniques allow designers to create far more innovative designs—with better venting and increased structural integrity.

Styling trends change toward aerodynamic designs and bright colors—making stylized helmets popular with both recreational and professional cyclists.

1995



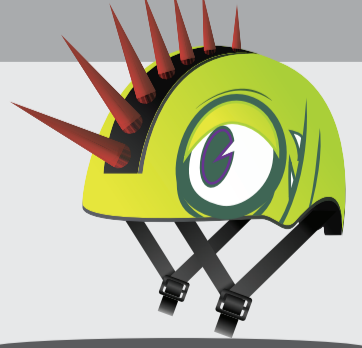
2004

In the 2000s, the skateboarding community made the "bowling ball" style of helmet popular. With a hard ABS plastic shell, it provided excellent protection.

In 2001, the "Child Bicycle Safety Act" was signed into law in North Carolina. This law requires every person under 16 years old to wear an approved bicycle helmet when operating a bicycle on any public road, public bicycle path, or other public right-of-way.

A more-rounded bicycle helmet design took hold in Europe with the stronger CASCO Warp II helmet—which moved away from the prior angular style.

2006



2010

To increase visual appeal and promote bicycle helmet usage among children, manufacturers push the design envelope with wild colors and 3D add-ons.

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