

Mountain Bikes Vs. Road Bikes

Although the concept of mountain bikes and road bikes is that they are practically the same, there are many differences between the two. Things like skill, frames, tires, gears, brakes, handlebars, forks, shocks, seats, maintenance, and even cost are all differences of a mountain bike compared to a road bike.

The skill level for both bikes is about the same, but the type of skill you need to ride in a different terrain varies between them. In mountain biking you need to be able to be able to control your bike while going over a jump, log, boardwalk, or rocks. You also need to be able to crash with minimal injury. In road biking, the skills you need would be signaling cars, and keeping balance while going very fast around a tight curve in the road.

Although some mountain bike frames might look similar to a road bike frame, they are completely different because of the way you use the bike. The frame of a road bike is made of steel, and thin and light, so that the rider can be more aerodynamic. The frame of a mountain bike is a lightweight aluminum but very heavy duty. They are made to take a lot of impact.

The tires of both bikes are noticeably different. The mountain bike tires are thick and knobby, made to go over rough terrain. A road bikes tires are thin and almost bald in order to create less friction and gain speed. The tire pressure of a mountain bike is kept slightly lower than normal so that it can go over rocks and pointy objects without popping and also to get a better grip on the ground. Road bike tires are opposite of the mountain bike tires. Road bike tires are high pressure so there is less grip on the pavement.

The gears of a mountain bike, and the gears of a road bike are pretty much used for the same purpose. In mountain biking, if you are going through a big patch of sand, you will want to put your bike in a very low gear so you can pedal through it. In road biking, you might want to switch to a lower gear when going up a hill. The position of the gears changing mechanisms is different. On a mountain bike, the gears are usually changed by twisting either side of the handlebars, depending on which set of gears you want to change. On a road bike, the mechanisms are under the handlebars in the form of a lever or button.

The differences between the handlebars and brakes of a mountain bike and a road bike can be seen just by looking at the bike. A road bike's handlebars are usually curved down. A mountain bike's handlebars are usually straight, or straight with two horns on each side facing up. The brakes on a road bike are similar to that of a mountain bike, but the in-line levers are different. They are located on the outside of the curved handlebars in the front of a road bike. On a mountain bike they are usually right above your fingers where you are holding on to the handlebars.

The forks, shocks and seats are another feature that you can see is different by looking at the two types of bikes. On a road bike, the forks have no shocks on them. The seats are thin and slanted downwards a little bit. A mountain bike's forks have shocks on them, and the seat has shocks underneath as part of the framework.

The cost of a road bike is more than a mountain bike. Although the road bike is more expensive, there is not as much maintenance needed. Because the mountain bikes are always getting beaten on and worn out, riders have to replace parts a lot. Having such a high

maintenance means that you will eventually end up paying more for the mountain bike, than you would a road bike.

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