

Feet:



First try: Your feet are the hardest thing to keep dry on a bike commute, so why even try? I just put on a pair of wool socks and old shoes.

Better yet: Cheap yellow nylon cycling shoe covers (Log House Designs, \$15) without taped seams aren't bombproof, but they do keep feet largely dry and shed the mud. A pair of cheap Planet Bike fenders (\$12) helps you not ask too much of them. If you can't deal with wet feet, a pair of rubber boots from the Urban Farm Store (\$20) will keep you dry, though they tend to slip off the pedals.

Really, though: Two Portland companies make cool water-battling footwear products. Shower's Pass Club shoe covers (\$40) are higher-end than the cheapies I have, adding zippers and better fabric. The Bogs Hawthorne (\$68) are ankle-high rubber shoes that look like sneakers and have a patch of ventilating mesh. It's surprising more companies don't make something like them. Then again, how many people outside Portland are crazy enough to have a need for such fancy rain boots?