

The oven Like other autos, TriMet buses get all the heat they need from their engines. This one pumps

heat forward through a duct system above the handrails, but the back rows of the bus are always hottest,

thanks to heat leakage, less crosswind and (on new, low-floor buses) being closer to the ceiling.

Cool breeze As if you needed another reason to dislike the sleek, cramped Type IV MAX cars, the ventilation has never quite worked on these: there's a perpetual draft in the raised seating areas at front and rear. TriMet's working on a fix, but for now the agency compensates by cranking the base temperature up here to 72 – so unzip your jacket as you climb the ramp.

Winter radiance Like movie franchises, Decemberists albums and mediocre dates, the four generations of MAX cars peaked with the second and third. In 1997, TriMet introduced one of the great joys of Portland winters by rolling out Type II MAX trains with floor-level radiators that kick on whenever outside tempeature drops below 55 and inside temperature below 66. On the coldest days, avoid the middle sections of Type II, III and IV cars – their facing seats still lack heaters underneath.

HABIBUT MARKET MARKET STUDIES

Everything's relative Starting with Type III in 2003, new MAX cars have used an advanced thermostat in their overhead heaters that automatically varies the target inside temperature based on outside temperature. When outside temperature is below 60, the target inside temperature is 66, gradually scaling up to a max of 72 when outside temperature exceeds 72. That means less sweat when you're in long johns and fewer goose bumps when you're in shorts.

more tips from the experts



Snap into a Slim Jim. Smartphone styluses start at \$13, touchscreenfriendly gloves at \$14. Beef jerky sticks are \$1.30, and they work just as well when you want to check arrival times with gloves on. Try it.



go catch some sun.

Wake Gregg, owner, E-Bike Store (N Vancouver & Alberta) Heated grips aren't just for motorcyclists. Find a pair on eBay for \$50 and wire them into your e-bike's battery.

Rain? No sweat. But let's confess:

Portlanders don't do cold well. So we

put some of the smartest folks in town

(including TriMet's professional comfort

geeks) in the hot seat – and came away

with a ton of tips and secrets for doing

winter better. Now wipe your nose and

Avalanche rescue tricks aren't just for hikers.

"Tense up, hold for five seconds, release for five seconds. You'll be sweating in a heartbeat.'

Keep your bike battery indoors.

They lose 15% of range at 40 degrees, 30% at 30 degrees and can't fully charge when cold. Bring yours inside at least an hour before each charge.



thermometer hung from

right handrail.

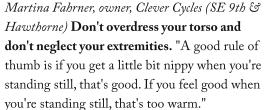
the extreme front of the

Winter-proof your

Keep your nose clear with cold air too fast. A small

If your kids are in the trailer, bundle them "ridiculously."

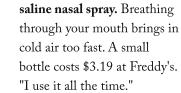
"It might be even a good idea





Carl Larson, walk + bike ambassador, Bicycle Transportation Alliance: **Keep**

your ears out of the wind with a ski helmet. "I wouldn't really want to exert myself in it, but it's nice and warm."



to have a warm water bottle if you want to go for a really long ride."





Nicola Swain-Campbell, psychologist, University of Otago: Play a game on your phone. In results published this month in the journal Pain Research and Management, Swain-Campbell's team found that people playing a video game were less sensitive to cold water than people watching television. But gamers should hope the battery lasts until the bus arrives. "If they stop while still cold, it might seem more intense as all their attention switches to the sensation of cold they have been ignoring." Nothing to do then but eat your Slim Jim. 👂

Photos of Gregg, Fahrner and Swain-Campbell courtesy of the subjects. Triple-dog thanks to Wren Shiffler and Tatiana Xenelis.

Electric blessing Cold feet? Try the seat

immediately in front of the rear door on

biggest new bus purchase in 10 years this

summer, the agency will finally phase out

most buses without these small heaters.

newer buses. When TriMet finishes its