

On foot



As a pedestrian, you are vulnerable and need to be cautious when crossing the road. No matter what age we are, we should stop, look and listen. When walking watch out for motorists, motorcyclists, bicycle riders and other pedestrians. If you see them, never assume they have seen you or will stop for you. Remember, that children less than 12 years of age are allowed to cycle on footpaths. An adult accompanying a child under 12 years of age is also allowed to cycle on footpaths. Some footpaths are designated shared cycling/walking paths.

As a pedestrian always make sure you:

- Use pedestrian crossings.
- Check both ways for motor vehicles, and bicycles before you cross the road.
- Wait until traffic is stopped before crossing at traffic lights on the green walk signal.
- Remember that all vehicles take longer than usual to stop in wet and slippery conditions.

On your bike



When cycling on the road it is important to be visible, predictable in your actions and aware of what is happening around you. You also need to wear a correctly fitted, approved bicycle helmet. For day riding, wear bright coloured clothing and reflective clothing at night. Lights and reflectors, front and back, are also needed for night riding.

As a bicycle rider always make sure you:

- Give way to motorists and pedestrians when they have right of way.
- Cycle about a metre away from the kerb to avoid debris and from parked cars to avoid opening doors.
- Let people know your intentions by using hand signals when turning or changing lanes.
- Remember, eye contact with other road users is important to signal clear intention.

On your motorbike



As a motorcycle rider, you need to be aware that other road users may find it difficult to see you in traffic. Wearing brightly coloured protective clothing may help to make you more visible. You should constantly look out for hazards. Safe riding involves scanning, speed management, good road positioning and making appropriate decisions. You must also wear an approved motorcycle helmet.

As a motorcycle rider, always make sure you:

- Give way to pedestrians if there is any danger of colliding with them, particularly when turning at intersections.
- Allow extra time for stopping as cars can generally stop quicker than motorcycles.
- Check over your shoulder for other vehicles when turning or changing directions.
- Choose a position in your lane that provides good vision without compromising your buffer from hazards.

In your car



Roads aren't exclusive to cars. As a car driver, please drive with consideration and share the road with other road users, including other motorists, pedestrians and bicycle riders. Always check your blind spots – you never know who may be there.

As a motorist always make sure you:

- Give way at pedestrian crossings.
- Change lanes when overtaking bicycle riders on multi-lane roads and allow at least one metre space for bicycle riders in a single lane situation.
- Check for pedestrians, bicycle riders and motorcyclists before you turn or proceed at intersections.
- Check for bicycle riders before opening your door. It is illegal to cause a hazard to any bicycle rider, pedestrian or vehicle by opening a door or getting off or out of a vehicle.



Using shared paths



Across NSW there are paths that can be used by both pedestrians and bicycle riders. To avoid collisions and make using these paths a pleasant experience, both pedestrians and bicycle riders need to look out for each other and follow a few simple rules.

As a bicycle rider always make sure you:

- Keep to the left.
- Use your bell or horn, if needed, to avoid a collision.
- Give way to pedestrians, slowing down or even stopping if needed.
- Be particularly careful around young children, dogs and older pedestrians, as they are often unpredictable.

Always travel at a speed that promotes safety for you and the pedestrians you encounter.

When walking on a shared path be aware that cyclists can travel much faster and may suddenly appear around a corner or behind you.

As a pedestrian make sure you:

- Keep to the left.
- Move off the path to the left if you wish to stop.
- Keep animals on short leads and under control.

The road is there to share

No matter how we choose to travel – ride, drive or walk – the road is there for everyone to share. To make it work, bicycle riders, motorists, motorcyclists and pedestrians need to respect each other. By following some simple rules, together we can save lives and make travelling on the road less stressful.

Be on the defensive

When you are on or around roads, it is important to be aware of other road users and what is happening. By adopting a 'defensive manner', such as constantly scanning the road and surrounding environment for changes, recognising hazards and taking avoidance action, everyone's safety can be increased.

Bicycle riders, motorists, motorcyclists and pedestrians can feel safer if they follow the rules outlined in this brochure.



Resources:

Visit www.bicycleinfo.nsw.gov.au for all your NSW bike-riding information needs in one convenient location.



Here is a list of RTA publications on cycling:

- A handbook for bicycle riders.
- A guide to safe cycling.
- Share and be aware: Travelling together safely.
- Cycling to work: Information for employers and employees.
- RTA cycleway maps.
- Information for parents and carers about safety on wheels.
- Riding in groups.
- Bicycle maintenance poster.
- 'Powered by people not petrol' postcard and poster.

Visit myResources at myRTA.com to order printed copies of these resources.

This brochure is printed on Australian made, recycled and greenhouse friendly paper.

Roads and Traffic Authority of New South Wales

The information in this brochure is intended as a guide only and is subject to change at any time without notice. It does not replace the relevant legislation.

For further enquiries
www.rta.nsw.gov.au | 13 22 13

May 2011
RTA/Pub. 11.179
Stock No. 4509 4786



Transport
Roads & Traffic
Authority

Share and be aware

Travelling together safely

