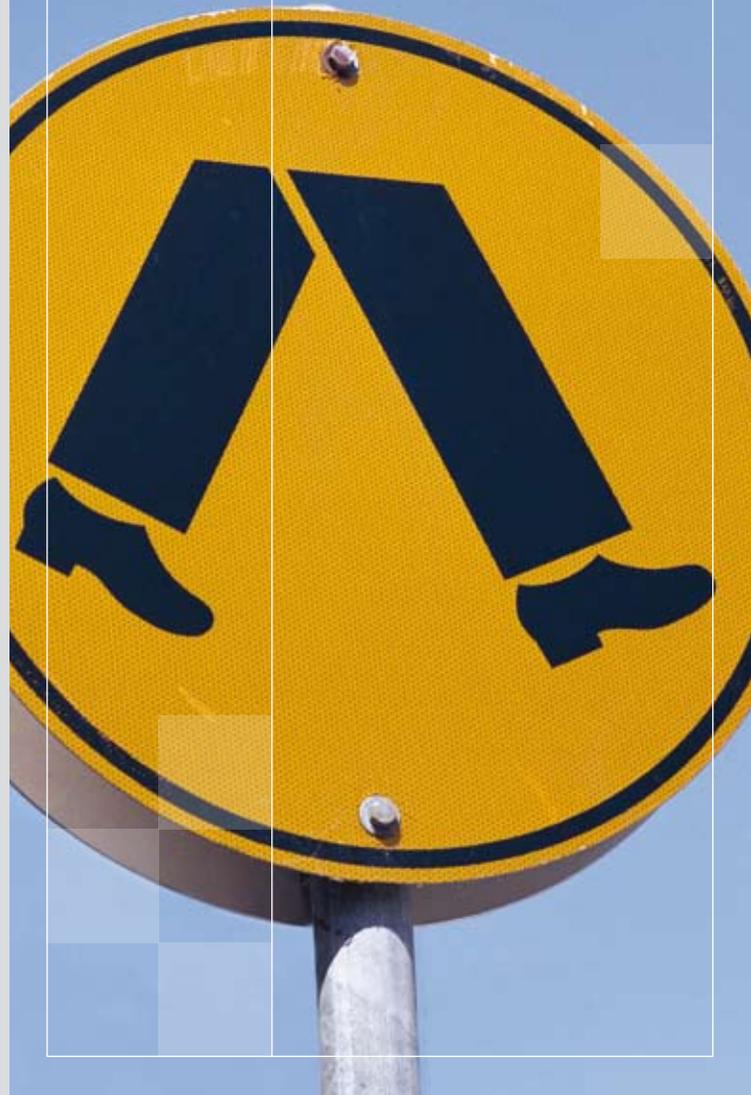




NSW Centre for
Road Safety



Pedestrian crossings



Roads and Traffic Authority

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
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April 2008
RTA/Pub. 08.110

Cat No. 45094455



Every year, pedestrians make up approximately 20 per cent of all people killed on NSW roads. Pedestrian crossings are used to reduce crashes and to help both pedestrians and drivers use the road safely.

Pedestrian crossing road rules

Whether you are walking or driving you must obey road rules to make sure pedestrian crossings are safe. Penalties apply for both drivers and pedestrians who break the law.

When you are driving

- Give way to pedestrians if there is any danger of colliding with them.
- Drive at a speed at which you can stop safely before the crossing.
- Give way to a pedestrian already on the road when turning left or right or making a U-turn.
- Always obey NO STOPPING signs.
- Never overtake or pass a vehicle that is stopping or slowing at a crossing.

TIPS

- Be aware of areas with high pedestrian activity, eg outside schools and shopping centres.
- Be mindful that older pedestrians may need extra time to cross.
- Remember that children can be difficult to see and may act unpredictably.

When you are a pedestrian

- Never cross the road within 20 metres of a pedestrian crossing (except at the actual crossing).
- Cross directly across the road and don't stay on the road any longer than necessary.
- Avoid walking on the road; choose the footpath or nature strip. If the road is the only alternative, face the oncoming traffic and stay as far to the side of the road as possible.
- Remember that drivers take longer than usual to stop in wet and slippery conditions.

TIPS

- Always use pedestrian crossings.
- Never assume that an approaching driver can see you or will stop for you, as their vision may be affected by the sun, poor light and parked cars.
- At intersections, check for turning vehicles before you leave the kerb and while you are crossing the road.
- Always supervise a child and hold their hand when crossing the road.
- Avoid using a mobile phone or portable media player (eg MP3) while you are crossing the road. These devices can distract you from checking for traffic.



Flashing yellow arrows at foot crossings

A flashing yellow arrow may be installed at some signalised marked foot crossings to remind drivers that they need to give way to pedestrians who are still crossing.

When the DON'T WALK sign is flashing for pedestrians, drivers will see a flashing yellow arrow. This means, if there's no risk of a collision, you can drive through the crossing.

Pelican crossings

The signals for pedestrians at pelican crossings are the same as those at normal mid-block pedestrian signals.

The difference with pelican crossings is that when the DON'T WALK pedestrian symbol is flashing, drivers will see a flashing yellow light. This means, if there's no risk of a collision, you can drive through the crossing.

TIP

As a pedestrian at traffic lights, make sure that vehicles stop before you start to cross, and don't go if vehicles are moving through the crossing.

Pedestrian crossings (zebra crossings)

Drivers must slow down and be prepared to stop when a pedestrian steps onto a marked crossing. Drivers must give way to any pedestrian on the crossing. Some crossings are difficult for you to see, so zigzag white lines are painted on the road to give drivers advance warning.

TIP

Some drivers will not stop for pedestrians so wait until all vehicles have stopped before you start to cross.

Raised pedestrian crossing

Raised pedestrian crossings are placed at locations where there is a high level of pedestrian activity. They are raised to increase visibility of the crossing and pedestrians to approaching drivers. They also help to slow down the traffic.

Children's crossings

Children's crossings are usually part-time crossings which operate just before and after school hours, and at other times that may be agreed by the local council. Outside these times the area isn't a pedestrian crossing. When in use, red flags displaying the words CHILDREN CROSSING are used. Drivers must slow down and stop before the stop line when a pedestrian is on the crossing or waiting to cross – and remain stopped until all pedestrians are off the crossing.

Zebra crossings are sometimes used as children's crossings. When they are, the red flags will be shown. Otherwise they operate as a normal zebra crossing.



Pedestrian refuge islands

Pedestrian refuge islands are not pedestrian crossings; they are installed on busy or wide roads to help pedestrians cross in two stages. Sometimes they are used with a pedestrian crossing, when a staged crossing is required.

By crossing in stages, you only have to concentrate on traffic from one direction at a time. Because refuge islands are generally not part of a marked crossing, be careful and wait for a break in the traffic.

Shared Zones

A Shared Zone is a street where pedestrians, bicycle riders and other vehicles can share the road safely. When driving in a Shared Zone, give way to all pedestrians and keep to the 10 kilometres per hour speed limit.

NO STOPPING zones

NO STOPPING signs are placed next to pedestrian crossings so that pedestrians can have a clear view of approaching vehicles and drivers can see pedestrians who are about to cross the road. It's illegal and dangerous to stop in these areas.

Pedestrian traffic symbols

Many traffic lights have pedestrian signals to help you cross the road safely. Press the button and wait for the lights to change to the 'green walk' symbol before crossing.

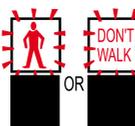
Don't cross.



Cross but watch out for vehicles.



When the display flashes the DON'T WALK signal, it's ok to finish crossing, but don't start to cross.



School Crossing Supervisors

Crossings near schools are sometimes supervised by School Crossing Supervisors.

When the supervisor walks onto the road or displays a STOP sign, drivers must stop and can proceed only once the supervisor has moved off the crossing.

TIP

Children up to ten years old should be supervised in the traffic environment and hold an adult's hand when crossing the road.