

# Four easy steps to Sharing the Road with cyclists

To share the road more co-operatively with cyclists and to increase cyclist safety, you should:

- 1 Watch out for cyclists at intersections**
- 2 Watch out for cyclists in residential streets**
- 3 Give cyclists a clearance of at least 1 metre when overtaking**
- 4 Check behind you for cyclists before opening your car door**



## Other ways that you can Share the Road with cyclists

### Bicycle Lanes

Bicycle lanes are provided for the exclusive use of cyclists to increase their safety.

Generally, drivers are not permitted to drive in a bicycle lane except to pass a right turning vehicle or to enter/leave a car parking space or side street. Drivers may not drive in a bicycle lane for more than 50 metres.

### Roundabouts

Cyclists can be difficult to see in roundabouts and may ride in the middle of the lane to ensure that they can be seen.

It is important that you look out for cyclists in roundabouts and allow a cyclist enough time to ride through the roundabout. Once through the roundabout, the cyclist will usually be able to move out of your way.

### Further information

Further information on Sharing the Road with cyclists and on other bicycle related matters can be obtained from:

VicRoads' Bicycle Information Service on

**1300 133 979**

VicRoads' website at:

**[www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)**

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# Sharing the Road with Cyclists

*A Guide  
for Drivers  
to Increase  
Safety*



## Introduction

Cycling is an effective, healthy and environmentally friendly form of transport. The more people who ride their bicycles to work, to school and for recreation, the better for everyone.

Unfortunately, more than 1,000 cyclists are injured in crashes with a motor vehicles each year. Many more are involved in minor crashes and near misses.

The purpose of this brochure is to outline some simple steps that drivers can take to make the roads safer for cyclists.

A complementary brochure, “*Sharing the Road with Drivers*”, has also been developed to encourage safer cycling practices amongst cyclists.

## The facts about cyclist safety

- › Approximately 30% of cyclist casualties occur when a driver crosses the path of an on-coming cyclist.
- › Up to 24% of cyclist casualties occur when a cyclist rides onto the road from a footpath or driveway and is hit by a car. Over half of these cyclists are under 15 years of age.
- › Approximately 20% of cyclist casualties occur when a driver hits a cyclist from behind or from the side.
- › Almost 10% of cyclist casualties occur when a driver opens their car door into the path of a cyclist.

## Four easy steps to Sharing the Road with cyclists

### 1 Watch out for cyclists at intersections

Cyclists usually ride along the left hand side of the road up to a metre from the gutter. They can ride at speeds of 30 km/h or more and can be obscured by other vehicles.

When you are making a turn at an intersection or entering a road, it is critical that you give way to any cyclist coming towards you.



### 2 Watch out for cyclists in residential streets

Young children who ride along the footpath may not always stop before riding onto the road. Cyclists who ride onto the road from a footpath or driveway may be difficult to see.

When driving on a residential street it is important that you drive at or below the speed limit and that you look out for cyclists on the footpath, especially at intersections and near driveways.



### 3 Give cyclists a clearance of at least 1 metre when overtaking

When driving, it is common for you to catch up to a cyclist travelling in the same direction as you in the same lane.

It is important that you allow a clearance of at least 1 metre, if not more, when overtaking the cyclist. It is also important that you give way to the cyclist when pulling back in or when you are changing lanes or turning left.



### 4 Check behind you for cyclists before opening your car door

Any time you park your car on the side of the road, there is a chance that a cyclist will ride past your car from behind.

It is important that you check behind you and allow any approaching cyclist to ride past before you open your car door. It is also important that you check for approaching cyclists before pulling out of your parking space.

