

Four easy steps to Sharing the Road with drivers

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

1 Be Bright – Day and Night

2 Educate children about cycling safely

3 Obey the Road Rules

4 Provide a clearance of at least 1 metre to any parked cars



Other ways that you can Share the Road with drivers

Obedient Road Rules not only increases your safety, it also sends a clear message to drivers that cyclists should be considered as legitimate road users.

More motorists are likely to recognise cyclists as legitimate road users when they see more and more cyclists complying with the Road Rules.

As a cyclist, drivers expect you to:

- stop at red traffic lights and stop signs,
- wear your bicycle helmet,
- wear brightly coloured clothing and use lights on their bicycles when cycling at night, and
- ride predictably and indicate before changing direction or turning.

Further information

Further information on Sharing the Road with drivers 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

Sharing the Road with Drivers

*A Guide
for Cyclists
to Increase
Safety*



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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 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 cyclists can take to make the roads safer for cyclists.

A complementary brochure, “*Sharing the Road with Cyclists*”, has also been developed to encourage safer driving practices amongst drivers.

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 drivers

1 Be Bright – Day and Night

Being bright means being able to be seen by drivers. When cycling, it is important that you wear a brightly coloured top that makes you stand out from your background.

It is also important that you have lights fitted to the front and rear of your bicycle and that you use them when riding at night.



2 Educate children about cycling safely

Young children need to be educated about how to ride safely.

It is important that younger cyclists be educated about how to ride properly on the footpath, to give way to pedestrians and to stop and give way to drivers before riding onto or crossing the road.

It is also important that younger cyclists be supervised and educated when learning to ride on the road and that cyclists set a good example by cycling safely themselves.



3 Obey the Road Rules

Under the Road Rules, a bicycle is a vehicle and the riders of bicycles must comply with the Road Rules.

This means that cyclists must stop at red traffic lights, wear a bicycle helmet and use lights at night. It also means that cyclists 12 years of age or over must not ride on the footpath unless accompanying a child cyclist under 12.



4 Provide a clearance of at least 1 metre to any parked cars

Try to provide a clearance of at least 1 m between you and any parked cars and ride so that you can stop quickly, if necessary.

Riding in this way will increase your chances of avoiding an open car door or a driver who pulls out in front of you.

