

Is it against the law to ride in low light conditions without bike lights?

A bike rider must use a front light, rear light (flashing or steady) and a rear red reflector when riding at night or in conditions where visibility is poor.

How can faster and slower bike riders share a bike lane safely?

Faster bike riders should use a bell or call out "passing on your right" when approaching other bike riders and not cut back in too quickly after overtaking. Slower bike riders should wait behind other riders at traffic lights and move to the left of a bike lane when it is safe to do so.

Did you know?

Some stretches of bike lane are painted green to highlight problem areas and encourage all bike riders and drivers to take extra care at those locations.

High visibility clothing can make riding safer at night. Reflectors on moving parts of your body (such as ankles) are particularly effective.

SAFETY TIP #2: Take a hook turn

If a normal right-hand turn leaves you feeling exposed in an intersection, try a hook turn. Bike riders are entitled to use a hook turn at any intersection unless signage specifically prohibits it.

SHARING A BUSY ROAD

Answers to some frequently asked questions about riding a bike around trams and heavy traffic



SHARE SUSTAINABLE





Are the road rules for bike riders the same as those for drivers?

A bike is classified as a vehicle under the Victorian road rules and must obey the road rules, including traffic lights.

For more information see vicroads.vic.gov.au

How can bike riders stay safe around trams?

If you need to cross tram tracks, it is safest to ride at right angles to the track.

Bike riders must stop at the rear of a tram that has its door open on that side of the road if there is no safety zone. Wait until the road is free of crossing pedestrians.

Are bike riders required to signal when turning?

Bike riders must signal when turning right, and can help share the road more safely by indicating all changes of direction, using eye contact, riding predictably, maintaining a straight line, and not weaving in and out of traffic.

Are bike riders allowed to pass other vehicles on the left?

Yes, except when those vehicles are indicating and turning left.

Are bike riders allowed to occupy a whole traffic lane?

Yes, this may be necessary in narrow traffic lanes where there is not enough space for another vehicle to overtake a bicycle safely within the lane.

Are bike riders required to use on-road bike lanes where they are provided?

Yes, unless impracticable to do so.

Is it against the law to open a car door into the path of a person or vehicle?

Yes, this is a particular danger for bike riders, and a driver or passenger who does so can be fined. To be protected against car dooring, you should aim to ride far enough out that your handlebar would not clip an open door.



SAFETY TIP #1:
Ride outside the door zone

SAFETY TIP #1:
**Look both ways for
bike riders before crossing
over a shared path**

If you want to stop and talk,
move off the path so you don't
block the way for others.

Did you know?

When bike riders ring or
call out as they approach,
they are generally just letting
you know that they are
coming because they don't
want to startle you when
they go past.

**A little courtesy goes
a long way – smile
or call “thank you”.**

SAFETY TIP #2:
Turn audio devices down

Use audio devices at low
volume so that you can hear
what's going on around you.
Or turn them off while
you're walking.

**WALKING ON A
SHARED PATH**

**Answers to some frequently
asked questions about walking
on a shared path**



**SHARE
SUSTAINABLE**

What is a shared path?

A shared path is designed to be used by both pedestrians and bike riders. Signage indicates that the path is a shared path. A bike path is not a shared path. Do not walk on a bike path, except to cross over when there are no bikes coming.

Why do bike riders use shared paths?

Bike riders are entitled to use shared paths. They may choose shared paths because they feel safer than riding on a road with motor vehicles. Shared paths are often used by slower bike riders.



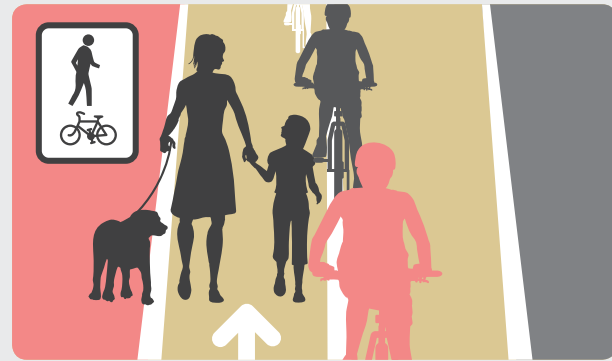
Keep left

When walking on a shared path, always keep left and allow enough room for bike riders to pass safely on the right.

Help children to stay left, explain that bike riders can come from both directions.

Make sure dogs are on your left and on a short enough leash that they can be kept out of bike riders' way.

**“FOR SAFE
PASSING
KEEP LEFT”**



Do I need to keep to the left when riding on a shared path?

Yes, it is a legal requirement that you ride on the left unless it is impracticable to do so.

Is there a speed limit on shared paths?

There is no set speed limit but you should travel at a safe speed so that you can stop quickly if necessary. Take particular care when passing in case your warning bell or call was not heard.



SAFETY TIP #2: Turn audio devices down

Use audio devices at low volume so that you can hear what's going on around you.
Or turn them off while you're riding.

RIDING ON A SHARED PATH

Answers to some frequently asked questions about riding a bike on a shared path



SHARE SUSTAINABLE

What is a shared path?

A shared path is designed to be used by both pedestrians and bike riders. Signage indicates that the path is a shared path. Footpaths are not shared paths and bike riders are not allowed to ride on footpaths. Children under 12 years are allowed to ride on footpaths and so are adults accompanying children under 12.

Who has right of way on shared paths?

Pedestrians always have right of way on shared paths. Pedestrians are more vulnerable users of the shared path. Bike riders should slow down near pedestrians to avoid an accident.



How should I warn pedestrians or slower bike riders that I am approaching?

Pass other riders and walkers on the right and provide plenty of warning. It is best to ring your bell from about 30 metres back. You can also use your voice to provide a friendly warning, for example “passing on your right”.

A little courtesy goes a long way – it’s nice to call out “thanks” as you pass.

“PASSING
ON YOUR
RIGHT”

SAFETY TIP #1: **Watch out for dogs and children**

Dogs and children can be unpredictable, take extra care as you approach them

Do I need to wait behind a tram?

You must stop at the rear of a tram that has its door open on your side of the road if there is no safety zone. Wait until the road is free of crossing pedestrians.

Giving way to trams

You must not block the path of an approaching tram. When moving onto a tram track to turn right, make sure that you will be able to complete the turn before a tram reaches you.

SAFETY TIP #3:
Head checks are extra important when you are driving next to a bike lane

Did you know?

Bicycles are considered vehicles and are permitted on the road, unless signed, even if there is an off-road path nearby.

Some stretches of bike lane are painted green to highlight problem areas and encourage bike riders and drivers to take extra care at those locations.

When turning, you must give way to all vehicles, including bikes, and pedestrians.

SAFETY TIP #4: Look!

For bikes before pulling out of a driveway. In heavy traffic, bikes might be moving faster than cars.

For bike riders turning right from the left lane at roundabouts and busy intersections.

SHARING A BUSY ROAD

Answers to some frequently asked questions about driving a car on roads with bikes and trams



**SHARE
SUSTAINABLE**





Who is at fault when a car door is opened into the path of someone on a bike?

The car driver or passenger is at fault and can be fined. Car dooring can cause serious and potentially life-threatening injuries to cyclists.

What is a bike box?

Some intersections have special waiting boxes painted onto the road. These 'bike boxes' are designed to increase the visibility and safety of bike riders by placing them at the front of a traffic queue. Drivers of motor vehicles can be fined for allowing any part of the car to enter the designated bike area while waiting at the lights.

Can I drive in a bike lane?

Yes, but for no more than 50m, and only when necessary to pass a vehicle turning right, to enter or leave a side street, another traffic lane or parking space, or when stopping or parking (if allowed).

Are bike riders allowed to ride two abreast?

Bike riders can occupy a full traffic lane and may ride two abreast, up to 1.5 metres apart.

Why don't bike riders use the footpath?

It is illegal under the Victorian Road Rules for an adult bike rider to ride on the footpath, unless accompanying a child under 12.

SAFETY TIP #1:
Leave at least one metre
When overtaking bike
riders, more if travelling
over 60km/h

Safety tip #2: Head check

Drivers and passengers should always look carefully before opening a car door. Looking in the mirror is a start, but it's also important to turn your head and look over your shoulder. One way to do this is to get into the habit of opening the driver's door with your left hand (and opening doors on the other side of the car with your right hand).

