



# Be a safe pedestrian

In 2007, about 2,700 people were injured in pedestrian-involved crashes, down from 2,900 in 2006. Although we're trending in the right direction, that's still too many pedestrians being injured on our roadways.

Pedestrians and vehicles share our roadways year-round. That's not going to change. What can change is our behaviour. Drive smart and be a smart pedestrian to help keep yourself safe.

## Pedestrian tips

- Remove your headphones, put away your cell phone or other gadgets when you're crossing a street. Focus your full attention on what's happening on the roadway so you can see, hear and respond safely.
- Make eye contact with drivers, so you both know you see each other.
- Always be cautious and pay attention to traffic. Drivers may not always stop or obey traffic signals.
- Use designated crossing points and follow pedestrian traffic signs and signals.
- Before stepping off the curb, look left and right for oncoming vehicles. Then look left again over your shoulder for vehicles that may be turning onto the roadway from beside or behind you.
- Wear bright or light coloured clothing. When the sun starts going down or in bad weather, wear reflective material on your clothes (sleeves, shoes, cap or jacket).

## Driver tips

- Always yield to pedestrians at intersections. You don't want to break the law.
- Be alert and scan left and right for pedestrians when you approach any intersection.

- If a vehicle is stopped in front of you or in the lane next to you, they may be yielding for a pedestrian, so be prepared to stop.
- Be aware of pedestrians who seem unsure or who may not be paying attention. They might dart out or wander onto the roadway.
- Always watch for pedestrians when you're backing up.
- Before you get into your vehicle, make it a habit to walk around it to make sure no small kids are behind your vehicle.

## Pedestrian crosswalks

Flashing pedestrian crosswalk lights are becoming more common across British Columbia. Here are some tips for drivers and pedestrians:

- All pedestrian crosswalks operate the same whether or not they have flashing lights. Drivers are required to stop once someone has entered the crosswalk.
- The flashing lights help catch the attention of drivers to let them know pedestrians are crossing or want to cross the street.
- The lights do not guarantee that vehicles will stop. It's important that drivers and pedestrians make eye contact with each other.

## Tips to help keep our kids safe

Post these safety tips somewhere in your home and review them with your kids.

- Always walk on the inside edge of the sidewalk away from the road. This way, you're further away from the traffic.
- If there is no sidewalk, always walk facing traffic so you can see oncoming vehicles and drivers can see you.
- Dress to be seen. Bright clothes or clothes with reflective gear make it easier for drivers to see you during the day, night and during bad weather.
- Don't wear headphones when crossing the street. You won't be able to hear signs of danger.
- Cross only at corners or marked crosswalks. Don't jaywalk.
- Parked vehicles in a parking lot or on the road can be dangerous. A driver may not see you between parked vehicles, and you may not see them moving. Stop and look left-right-left around the parked vehicle before crossing or moving through a parking lot.

### Steps to crossing safely

1. Stop before stepping onto a road, driveway or lane.
2. Look all directions, left-right-left and over your shoulder for vehicles that may be turning. Keep looking for approaching vehicles as you cross.
3. Listen for vehicles that you might not be able to see, but could be coming from a driveway, around a corner or over a hill.
4. Make eye contact with drivers, so you know they see you and they know you see them. Drivers don't always see you even if you see them.
5. Follow all traffic signs.
6. Walk; don't run across a street, driveway or lane.

## Rules for railway crossings

- Don't play around railway crossings. They can be very dangerous.
- Trains always have the right-of-way. They don't slow down at crossings like vehicles do. Use designated railway crossings and follow all signals and signs.
- Look left-right-left before crossing. Be extra careful and watch your step when crossing railway tracks.



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