



intersection safety

More than 40 per cent of police-attended crashes happen at intersections. Here are some ways you can drive smart and avoid becoming a statistic when in or around intersections.

Tips for intersections

When you're approaching an intersection...

- You should always use caution. Don't make any sudden moves that might confuse another driver — or a cyclist or pedestrian.
- If you haven't just seen the traffic light up ahead turn green, be ready to stop in case it changes to yellow. Always check your mirrors and look around. Slow down well in advance.
- Only go through a yellow light if it's unsafe to stop.
- Check the pedestrian signals — in many areas, the crosswalk signal will change from a white figure to an orange hand just before the light turns yellow, or will show how many seconds are left before the traffic light will change.
- It's not safe to change lanes in an intersection. Make sure you're always in the correct lane before a turn.
- Always use your turn signals well before you make a move — it helps other drivers, cyclists and pedestrians know what you're doing.
- Watch for other, more vulnerable road users also approaching or entering the intersection, such as motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians.

When you're stopping at an intersection...

- If you're the first car to stop — make sure you're behind the line or crosswalk.
- Always leave space between you and the vehicle in front — a good rule is to leave enough space so you can see its wheels (about a car length).
- Keep your wheels straight when stopped.

When it's your turn to go...

- When the light turns green, check the intersection before you move forward — in case someone's running the red or jumping the green (counting to three works well).
- Don't enter the intersection if traffic is backed up. If you can't get through the intersection before the light changes, you'll be stuck in the middle.
- Accelerate moderately to fit in with traffic flow.
- Ignore aggressive drivers — don't worry if they're honking their horns behind you.
- Always watch for cyclists and pedestrians (and especially when visibility is poor). You have to yield to them when making a turn.

Tips for railway crossings

- Don't forget: trains always have the right-of-way.
- Slow down when you see the *railway crossing ahead* sign and be ready to stop.
- Check both directions before crossing.

Also check out our fact sheets:

- **Be a safe pedestrian**
- **Sharing the road with motorcycles**



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