

Pedestrian Safety



Each year, around 50 pedestrians are killed and over 1000 are hospitalised on NSW roads.

Pedestrians are particularly vulnerable in crashes, as an unprotected body can only tolerate so much force. A pedestrian hit by a car travelling at 50km/h is twice as likely to be fatally injured as one hit by a car travelling at 40km/h.

Even if you're familiar with a road, always choose the safest place and allow enough time to cross. Pedestrian fatalities tend to happen in the morning and afternoon on weekdays, and on weekends most pedestrian crash fatalities happen in the evening or at night as pedestrians can be harder to see at night or in bad weather. Alcohol is another factor in pedestrian crashes.

Whenever you cross a road, always take an extra moment to stop and look out before you step out.

We all have a part to play in keeping our roads safe and achieving the target of zero deaths and serious injuries on our roads.

When you're driving or cycling:

- always give way to pedestrians if there's any danger of colliding with them
- drive or ride at a speed that allows you to stop safely before pedestrian crossings
- when turning left or right, or making a U-turn, give way to crossing pedestrians
- always obey 'no stopping' signs
- never overtake or pass vehicles that are stopping or slowing down at crossings
- always slow down to 40km/h when bus lights are flashing and watch for pedestrians.

Tips for drivers and cyclists

- Take extra care when driving or riding through high pedestrian activity areas such as near shopping areas, public transport hubs, beaches and hospitals
- Be mindful that pedestrians with a disability and older pedestrians may need extra time to cross
- Remember that children can be difficult to see because they are smaller in size, and may act unpredictably.

When you're a pedestrian:

- you must use a pedestrian crossing if there's one within 20 metres
- don't spend more time crossing than necessary and always cross the road directly, without changing direction or stopping
- you must walk on the footpath or nature strip, not the road
- if you do have to walk on a road without a footpath or nature strip, stay as far to the side of the road as possible facing oncoming traffic.

Pedestrian signals

Many sets of traffic lights have signals for pedestrians to help them cross safely. Pedestrians must wait for the green 'walk' signal before crossing.



Red pedestrian symbol. Pedestrians must not start to cross.



Flashing red pedestrian symbol. Pedestrians must not start to cross, but can finish crossing.



Green pedestrian symbol. Pedestrians can start to cross.

Remember

When you're waiting at traffic lights to cross the road, make sure all vehicles have stopped and are clear of the crossing before you step out.

Flashing yellow lights at marked crossings

At some traffic lights a flashing yellow arrow will appear for drivers while the red 'don't walk' signal for pedestrians is still flashing. The flashing yellow arrow means drivers must give way to any pedestrians still crossing. If there's no risk of collision, drivers can proceed through the crossing.

Pedestrian countdown timers at marked crossings

At some crossings, countdown timers have replaced the flashing red 'don't walk' signals for pedestrians. These countdown timers display how many seconds remain until the red 'don't walk' signal appears and the traffic lights for oncoming vehicles change to green.



On average, it takes a pedestrian 5.8 seconds to cross a two lane road. Countdown timers help pedestrians decide if there's enough time to cross the road safely before they start crossing. They reduce the number of pedestrians still crossing when the red 'don't walk' signal appears, and lower the chance of pedestrians being hit by vehicles.

Pedestrian crossings (zebra crossings)

Drivers must always give way to pedestrians on pedestrian crossings. When approaching a crossing, the driver must slow down and, if necessary, stop safely before the crossing. Where crossings are difficult to see, zigzag white lines on the road give drivers advance warning that there's a pedestrian crossing ahead.

Tips for pedestrians

- You must always cross at a pedestrian crossing if there's one within 20 metres
- Never assume an approaching driver can see you or will stop for you. Wait until all vehicles have stopped before you step out
- Remember that it takes vehicles longer to stop in wet weather
- At intersections, check for turning vehicles before you step out and while you're crossing the road.

Children's crossings

Children's crossings are usually part-time crossings that operate before and after school hours, and at other nominated times. 'Children crossing' flags will be displayed on both sides of the road when the crossing is being used.

When a pedestrian is on a children's crossing or waiting at the kerb to cross, drivers must slow down and stop before the stop line and remain stopped until all pedestrians are off the crossing.

School crossing supervisors

Crossings near schools are sometimes supervised to make it safer for children to cross busy roads. When a school crossing supervisor walks into a crossing or holds up a 'stop' sign, drivers must slow down and stop. Drivers can proceed only once the supervisor has moved off the crossing.

Tips for parents and carers

- Children under ten years old should always hold an adult's hand when walking on footpaths, in car parks and when crossing the road
- Children over the age of ten years old should be closely supervised by an adult near traffic and should hold an adult's hand when crossing the road.

Pedestrian refuge islands

Pedestrian refuges are installed on busy or wide roads to help pedestrians cross in two stages, so they can concentrate on traffic coming from one direction at a time. Refuge islands are not usually part of a marked crossing, so pedestrians need to be careful and wait for safe breaks in the traffic before stepping out.

Shared paths

Shared paths are designed to be used by pedestrians and bicycle riders. Bicycle riders must keep left and give way to pedestrians on shared paths. Pedestrians should be aware of their surroundings and keep a look out for other pedestrians and riders using the path. If you're walking with pets, keep them on a short lead and under control.

Motorised wheelchairs

Motorised wheelchairs are designed to be used by people who are unable to walk or have difficulty walking. A person who uses a motorised wheelchair is generally considered a pedestrian and must follow the same rules that apply to pedestrians.

If you use a motorised wheelchair, you must:

- have a reasonable need to use a wheelchair because of physical disability or limited mobility
- never exceed 10km/h
- not unreasonably obstruct the path of other wheelchair users or pedestrians
- not be affected by alcohol or drugs when travelling on and near roads and footpaths.

Tips for wheelchair users

- Plan a route that allows access to a footpath for the entire journey
- Take extra care when leaving the kerb to cross the road
- Always be prepared to stop for pedestrians
- Watch for vehicles entering and leaving driveways.

High Pedestrian Activity Areas

High Pedestrian Activity Areas (HPAAs) are sections of road where there's a high degree of interaction between vehicles and pedestrians, such as near shopping areas, public transport hubs, beaches and hospitals. The speed limit in HPAAs is 40km/h unless signposted otherwise. Always obey the road rules, cross at designated crossings, and look out before you step out.

Trucks, buses and trams

Trucks, buses and trams take longer to stop than other vehicles because of their size and weight, so it's important to take extra care when you're walking near or crossing roads frequently used by these types of vehicles.

Tips for pedestrians

- Don't assume the driver has seen you
- Cross only at designated pedestrian crossings
- Avoid crossing at the front or back of buses and large vehicles
- Don't be distracted by your phone and remove headphones before crossing roads
- Always look out before you step out
- Plan ahead so you're not rushing to catch the bus/train/tram.

Taxis and rideshare vehicles

Taxis and rideshare vehicles stop frequently at a variety of locations, sometimes with little warning.

Tips for pedestrians

- Try to use designated taxi stands
- If ordering a taxi or rideshare, wait on the appropriate side of the road, in a safe place, for your vehicle to arrive
- Always ask your driver to drop you off in a safe space, out of traffic.

Shared zones

The speed limit in shared zones is 10km/h, and drivers and cyclists must always give way to pedestrians.

No stopping

Drivers must not stop or park within 20 metres before or 10 metres after a pedestrian crossing or children's crossing. Sometimes 'no stopping' signs will be installed before or after crossings to increase visibility for both pedestrians and drivers. It's unsafe and illegal for drivers to stop within these zones.

Transport info

Use a train or bus – call **131 500** or visit **transportnsw.info** to check timetables and avoid waiting at the train station or bus stop.

For more information on pedestrian safety and to find out about the NSW Government's road safety initiatives, visit **roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au**