

# SHARE THE ROAD

## RULES FOR MOTORISTS

Using Washington's roads requires care and courtesy whether you are driving a car or riding a bicycle. Washington law requires every driver to respect the rights of others to be on the road. You can do your part by being a safe and courteous driver every time you get behind the wheel. Share The Road.



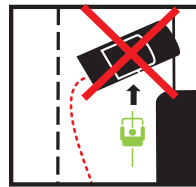
**Bicyclists and motorists in Washington have exactly the same rights and responsibilities.** As a motorist, you should drive carefully around bicyclists. In some areas, bicycling is very popular and you may encounter groups of bicyclists. It is legal for bicyclists in Washington to ride two-abreast [RCW 46.61.770]. However, bicyclists must

show courtesy and not impede other road users. Some of the roads that are popular with bicyclists have curves, blind corners and uphill: be aware that you might suddenly come across a single rider or a group of bicyclists on scenic roads and drive accordingly. Here are some tips to more safely share the road with bicyclists:

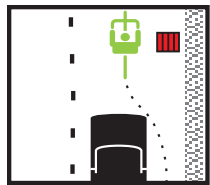


**Reduce your speed when passing bicyclists,** especially if the roadway is narrow.

**Don't blast your horn** when approaching bicyclists – you could startle them and cause an accident.

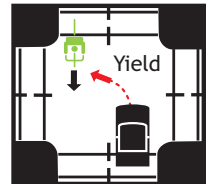


**Don't make a right-turn in front of bicyclists.** Assume bicyclists are traveling straight ahead at intersections unless they have signaled otherwise. If you are making a right-turn, do so only when it is safe to do so. Remember, bicyclists may be traveling faster than you realize.

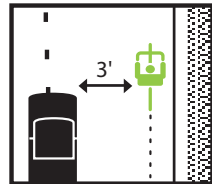


**Give bicyclists adequate space to maneuver** around such hazards as lowered drain grates, potholes, debris and glass. These might not be a problem for a motor vehicle but are potentially dangerous to bicyclists.

**Yield on left turns to oncoming bicyclists.** Bicyclists may be traveling faster than you realize. Yield to bike riders as you would any other vehicle.



**Pass with at least 3 feet to spare.** Ample space between your vehicle and the bicyclist you are passing creates a zone for the bicyclist that's safe from the effects of a passing car.



**Look before you open a car door.** Bicyclists are often hit by unthinking motorists and passengers who open their car doors without looking carefully. Be sure you check for bicyclists before you open your door.

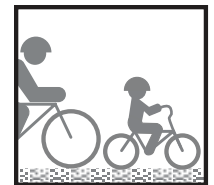


**Provide extra passing room** to bicyclists during rain and other bad weather.

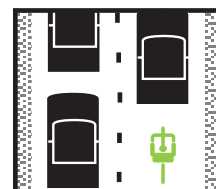


**Wait to pass** if you are uncertain about road or weather conditions.

**Allow for the inexperience of children on bicycles.** Extra care is needed when near kids on bikes. Make sure you anticipate the unexpected turn or swerve.



**Do not pass bicyclists if oncoming traffic is near.** Wait as you would with any slow-moving vehicle. It's required by state law [RCW 46.61.125 (1)(d)].



**NOTE:** On roads that are too narrow to permit a bicycle and a car to safely share a lane, bicyclists are permitted to "take the travel lane" which means riding in the center of the travel lane.

**Check before you move back into your lane.** Some bicyclists may be traveling at 25-30mph. Make sure you provide adequate distance between you and the bicyclists before merging back into your travel lane.



Provided by Washington Department of Licensing and Bicycle Alliance of Washington.



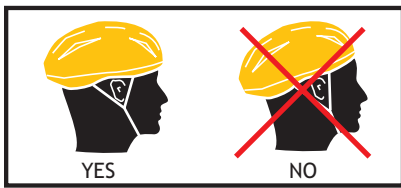
# SHARE THE ROAD

## RULES FOR BICYCLISTS

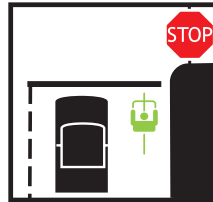
Driving on the roads requires care and courtesy whether you are driving a car or a bicycle. As road users, bicyclists must be predictable and obey all traffic laws by riding in a responsible manner. Bicyclists fare best when they act and are treated as drivers of vehicles. Do your part by being a good ambassador for bicycling. Below are a few bicycle driving rules for your review.



**Maintain and Regularly Inspect Your Equipment** If you are not skilled at bike mechanics, take your bike to a shop at least yearly for tune and inspection.

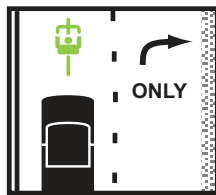


**Wear a Helmet Correctly** Everyone should wear a helmet to prevent head injury. Your helmet should be level and snug.



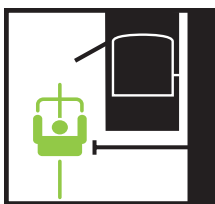
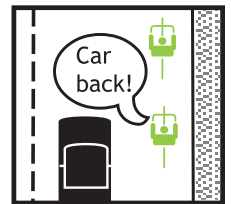
**Be Prepared** Always carry a spare tube, pump, tire levers and clothing appropriate for the predicted weather. Watch your speed, especially when visibility is limited.

**Ride with Traffic** Don't ride against traffic— its illegal and dangerous. If you approach an intersection with a right turn lane and intend to continue straight, ride in the through lane.



**Obey All Traffic Laws and Be Predictable** Obey stop signs, traffic lights, and other traffic controls. Bicyclists fare best when they act and are treated as drivers of vehicles.

**Ride Single File in Traffic** You may ride double file legally, but avoid it if it causes a traffic backup. Courtesy often avoids accidents.

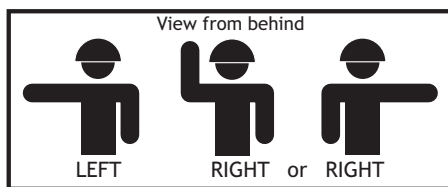


**Watch for Potential Hazards** Scan the road 100 feet ahead for hazards — drains, potholes, tracks, or debris. Allow time to maneuver around these hazards and negotiate with traffic. Look for drivers in parked cars and avoid riding into open car doors by giving yourself at least 3 feet.

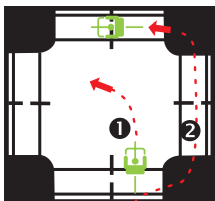


**Warn Others When Approaching** Bicyclists should warn pedestrians and other bicyclists before passing. Ring your bell or give a friendly greeting. Allow plenty of space when passing.

**Signal All Turns** Look back before you make a lane change or turn. Signal before you turn. A good mirror helps, but always double check by looking.



**Be Visible Day and Night** Bicycle reflectors are not sufficient for safety. Headlights and a rear reflector are required when riding at night. Flashing tail lights and reflective clothing are *highly* recommended. A second red tail light is a good safety addition and backup. Wear bright hi-visibility clothing even during the day. A distracted driver has a better chance of seeing you if you stand out.



**Making Left Hand Turns** You may turn left by moving into the left turn lane. OR Cross like a pedestrian by using the cross walks.

Provided by Washington Department of Licensing and Bicycle Alliance of Washington.

