

Sharing the road

1. Safety first

Minimise distractions by not driving with your mobile phone turned on, even if it is hands free. Don't drive during the time you would normally be asleep or if you have not slept in the last 18 hours. Increase space and following distance – aim to keep a minimum 2 second gap from the vehicle in front. Never exceed the speed limit – it takes longer to stop than you might think. Practice slowing down to a potential hazardous situation. Do not drive after drinking or taking drugs. Always ensure you and all of your passengers are wearing a seat belt.



2. Drive slowly and sensibly near all road users

Watch out for pedestrians, mobility scooters and bike riders at intersections and roundabouts. Drive slowly in residential streets, and check behind before opening your car door. Use your mirrors as well as checking over your shoulder.

3. Be patient and calm around bike riders

Riding a bicycle is a fabulous way to exercise and commute for school and work. Bicycle riders are among our most vulnerable road users as they have less protection than motorists and are more likely to be injured if there is a crash.

From 30 November 2017, when the speed limit is 60km/h or under, motorists must leave a gap of at least 1m when passing a bicycle rider. When the speed limit is over 60km/h, the gap must be at least 1.5m.

If this clearance is not possible do not overtake until it is safe to do so. After overtaking, make sure you are well clear of the bicycle before moving back.

Do not drive in bicycle lanes and always give way to bike riders in bicycle lanes if you are turning across the lane. Indicate when pulling out, changing lanes or turning, so bike riders know your intentions.

4. Don't cut in and drive with care around trucks

It's dangerous to cut into a gap in front of a moving truck because they need almost twice as much room to brake as a car needs. If you cut in front it may not have enough room to stop. A truck is longer than a car, so you'll need more road to pass a moving truck. Stay well back and when you're sure it's safe, signal, move out and pass sensibly.

5. Do not overtake a truck that is turning

Trucks simply need more room than cars do to get around corners. So the sign 'Do not overtake turning vehicle' on the back of trucks warns you about this. Trucks can legally turn from the centre lane. Don't move into the truck's blind spot. Stay back until the truck has gone around the corner. Another good tip: if you can't see the driver's face in their mirrors, they can't see you.