



---

## Drive Safe, Cycle Safe

---

Motorists and cyclists both have a right to use Britain's roads - a right to safe and enjoyable travel. Both share a responsibility to understand each other's needs - and to respond positively.

This information aims to make motorists and cyclists more aware of one another, and to counter the intolerance that can develop between them - in short, to establish a climate of mutual courtesy and care

### What cyclists would like motorists to know

- Cyclists are more vulnerable than motorists - drivers have the major responsibility to take care. Rain, wind and poor visibility make conditions worse for cyclists.
- Cyclists **can feel threatened by inconsiderate driving**. They **have a right to space** on the road and need **extra** room at junctions and roundabouts where cars change speed, position and direction.
- Cyclists **ride away from the kerb, not** to annoy motorists but to:
  - avoid drains, potholes and debris
  - be seen as they come to junctions with side roads
  - discourage drivers from squeezing past when it's too narrow
- Cyclists **turning right are exposed** - and need extra consideration from motorists, especially on multi-lane roads with fast-moving traffic.
- Cyclists **can be forced into faster traffic** - by vehicles parked in cycle lanes, at junctions or on double yellow lines.
- Cyclists **are dazzled** by full-beam headlights, like everyone else.
- Cyclists **can be fast movers** - 20mph or more.

### What motorists can do

- **Think bike**. Expect to see cyclists, and take care.
- **Slow down and drive smoothly. Keep within speed limits. Expect sudden movements** by cyclists, especially in windy weather and on bad road surfaces.  
**Signal:** always at roundabouts and **every** time you pass a cyclist  
**Watch for riders on the inside** when you turn left. Don't cut them up.
- **Give cyclists space** - at least half a car's width - and never force past them. **Be patient** - a few seconds for a cyclist hardly affects your total journey time.
- **Right-turning cyclists need space and time.**

- **Park considerately. Always look for cyclists** before opening a car door.
- **Use dipped headlights.**
- **Expect speed** from bikes. Think of a bike as a vehicle - it is.

## What motorists would like cyclists to know

- Motorists **get upset if cyclists ride without lights** at night, ignore red traffic lights or hop on and off the pavement.
- Motorists **usually travel faster than cyclists** and may have less time to take account of hazards.
- Motorists **may not always see cyclists.**
- Motorists **are made uneasy when cyclists seem hesitant**, move out suddenly or wobble around potholes.
- Motorists can **feel delayed by cyclist.**
- Motorists **don't always understand** that some road surfaces, junctions or traffic conditions cause problems for cyclists.

## What cyclists can do

- Follow the Highway Code.
- Don't
- - jump red lights
  - ride on pavements (unless they are shared paths)
  - ride the wrong way in one-way streets (unless signs say that cyclists are permitted to do so)
  - ride across pedestrian crossings
- **Think ahead.** Anticipate drivers' actions. Catch their eye.
- **Be visible.** Ride well clear of the kerb, wear bright clothing, and always use lights after dark or in poor day-time visibility.
- **Show drivers what you plan to do.** Always look and signal before you start, stop or turn. Ride a straight line past parked cars rather than dodge between them.
- **Move over, when it's safe and convenient.** Two-abreast is often OK, but try not to hold up other traffic.
- **Ride positively and decisively.** It helps motorists to understand what you plan to do.

**Mutual respect and consideration make for safer and more enjoyable travel. Always acknowledging a courtesy does make a difference.**