

Sharing the Road: Tips on Cycling with Cars

1. Communicate: Hand signals alert drivers to what you want to do. You may be surprised at how often they will let you do just that. And don't forget to shoulder check.

2. Be predictable: Remember that riding in a straight line makes you predictable. Avoid weaving in and out of parked cars, for example.

3. Give yourself room: The majority of accidents happen in front of you. Don't be timid and hug the curb. Hugging the curb make you less visible, reduces your manoeuvrability and may encourage cars to pass you too closely. You are better off asserting yourself. Ride at least 1m/3ft. from the curb and 1.5m/4ft from parked cars.

4. Make eye contact: Just like driving, eye contact is the best way to ensure that the other person sees you.

5. Don't ride on the sidewalk: Riding on the sidewalk is, statistically-speaking, the most dangerous place to ride. This is because sidewalks have many uncontrolled intersections, like driveways and back lanes, and the sight lines are meant for slower moving pedestrians.



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Sharing the Road: Tips on Driving with Bikes

1. Stay alert for bicycles: Bicycles are everywhere. Keep your focus on the road, especially at intersections.

2. Provide a safe passing distance: At speeds under 60 km/hr, drivers should provide a min. of 1m/3ft. of passing distance. In fact, there is rarely sufficient space to pass a cyclist in the same lane.

3. Slow down when passing: Why rush? Slowing down provides more time for both you and the cyclist to react, and gives more time for drivers behind you to react as well. And, if something were to happen, slower speeds greatly reduces the chance for injury on both driver and cyclist.

4. Don't honk your horn: Honking your horn, even if well intentioned, can be very startling for the cyclists. They are not insulated by steel and glass and the sound of a car horn behind them can cause them to panic and lose control.

5. Shoulder-check before opening your car door: It's easy to check over your shoulder before opening the door just to be sure.



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