



Answers to some questions frequently asked by drivers and cyclists

Are bicycles legitimate road vehicles?

Yes, bicycles are classified as vehicles under the Road Rules and cyclists are permitted to use the road just as drivers are.

Are the Road Rules for cyclists the same as those for drivers?

Yes, except for a few differences and some additional rules for bicycle riders. More details on Road Rules can be found at www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

See over for more questions and answers . . .

Are bicycles allowed to pass other vehicles on the left?

Yes, except when those vehicles are indicating and turning left.

Are cyclists required to signal when turning?

Cyclists must signal when turning right, and can help share the road more safely by riding predictably, using eye contact and indicating all changes of direction.

Are cyclists allowed to ride two abreast?

Yes, but they must not ride more than 1.5 metres apart.

Are cyclists allowed to occupy a whole traffic lane?

Yes, this may be necessary in narrow traffic lanes where there is not enough space for another vehicle to overtake a bicycle safely within the lane.

How much clearance should a driver allow when overtaking a cyclist?

Allow at least one metre clearance, and leave plenty of space before pulling back in.

Are drivers allowed to use bike lanes?

Yes, but for no more than 50 metres, and only where necessary to pass a vehicle turning right, to enter or leave a side street, another traffic lane or parking space, or where stopping or parking is allowed.

Are cyclists required to use on-road bike lanes where they are provided?

Yes, unless it is impracticable to do so.

Is it against the law to open a car door into the path of a person or vehicle?

Yes, this is a particular danger for cyclists, and a driver or passenger who does so can be fined, so please look out for cyclists before opening a car door.

Is it against the law to ride in low light conditions without bike lights?

Yes, cyclists must display a white light on the front of their bicycle and a red light on the rear. These lights may be flashing or steady and must be visible for at least 200 metres. A red rear reflector and a bell are also required.

Is it against the law to ride without a helmet?

Yes, cyclists riding on roads or paths are required to wear a properly fastened Australian Standards approved bicycle helmet.

Are adults allowed to ride on the footpath?

Only if accompanying a cyclist under the age of 12, or if suffering a disability and carrying a relevant medical certificate or otherwise exempted. Cyclists must always give way to pedestrians on footpaths and shared paths.

Cyclists are just one of many road users. People driving cars trucks, buses and trams, as well as people walking or riding bikes, should look out for each other and **Share the Road** more safely, .

For more information visit:

- VicRoads www.vicroads.vic.gov.au
select Information For Cyclists and then go to
Road Rules or Cycling Safety and Share the Road
- Bicycle Victoria www.bv.com.au
search: Road Rules or Share the Road
or contact the Bicycle Information Service on
Telephone 1300 133 979 (country callers 1800 639 634)

