

Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety >>>>

Did you know that bicycles are legally considered “vehicles” on Florida roadways? This means that bicyclists must obey the rules of the road like drivers of any other vehicle and must be treated as equal users by all other vehicles. It is important to be familiar with the rules and regulations whether you are on a bicycle or driving a motor vehicle



- 1. Follow the law and obey all traffic signs and signals.** Bicycles must follow the rules of the road like any other vehicle. This includes stopping for stop signs and red lights.
- 2. Go with the flow.** Never ride against the flow of traffic. Motorists aren't looking for bicyclists on the wrong side of the road.
- 3. Stay visible.** If drivers can see you, they are less likely to hit you. Use lights when biking at night and in low light conditions. The law requires a white headlight visible from at least 500 feet ahead and a rear reflector or taillight visible from 600 feet behind.
- 4. Protect your head.** Always wear a helmet. Additionally, the law requires a bicycle rider or passenger under 16 years of age must wear a bicycle helmet that is properly fitted, fastened securely and meets the federal safety standard.
- 5. Ensure your bicycle is “ride ready.”** A bicyclist must use a fixed, permanent seat. Every bicycle must be equipped with breaks that enable the rider to stop within 25 feet from a speed of 10 miles per hour on dry, level, clean pavement.
- 6. Stay in your lane.** Follow lane markings. Don't turn left from the right lane and don't go straight in a lane marked “right turn only.”
- 7. Don't get distracted.** Never ride with headphones or talk on the phone while riding. It blocks out the sounds of what is going on with the traffic around you.
- 8. Look, signal, look again.** Hand signals tell motorists and pedestrians what you intend to do. Signal as a matter of law, courtesy, and protection. Look, make eye contact, and don't ever assume drivers will stop.
- 9. Act like a car.** When a lane is too narrow for a bicycle and a car to share safely, the cyclist is entitled to the use of the entire lane. Ride on the right half of the lane to be visible for overtaking motorists, but far enough left to discourage motorists from squeezing past within the same lane.
- 10. Be a responsible parent and guardian.** No parent or guardian may knowingly authorize or permit a minor child to violate any provisions of this section. Additionally, a child under 4 years old, or who weighs 40 pounds or less must be in a seat or carrier designed to carry a child of that age or size. The rider may not allow the child to remain in the seat when the rider is not in immediate control of the bicycle.



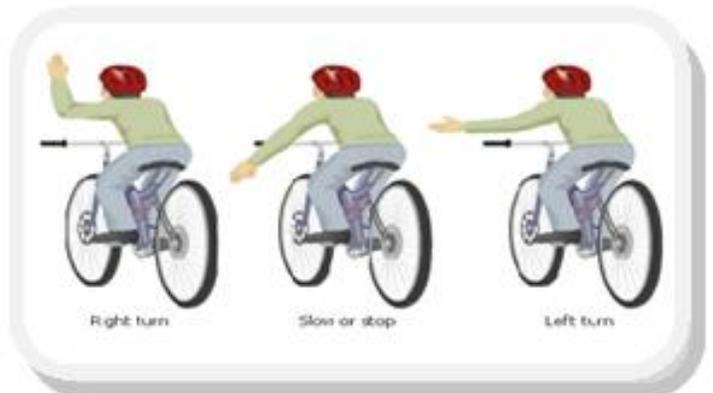
Wrong



Wrong



Right



At some time, everyone fits in the category of pedestrian. This can include walking to and from your vehicle. Here are some important safety reminders for pedestrians.

- Always use a sidewalk or path if one is available.
- If there is no sidewalk or path, walk facing traffic, on the shoulder, as far away from traffic as possible.
- Keep alert at all times. Don't get distracted by electronic devices, such as smartphones, that take your eyes and ears off what is going on around you.
- Never assume a driver sees you. He or she could be under the influence of alcohol/drugs or distracted by something else.
- Be predictable. Cross streets at crosswalks or intersections whenever possible.
- Stay off of freeways, restricted access highways and other pedestrian prohibited roadways.
- Be visible at all times. Wear bright clothing during the day and reflective materials at night or use a flashlight.
- Avoid alcohol and drugs while walking; they impair your abilities and judgment.



If you are a motorist, you should also be familiar with the law and practice good safety techniques. Remember to.....

- Look out for bicyclists and pedestrians everywhere, at all times.
- Be especially vigilant for bicyclists and pedestrians in hard-to-see conditions, such as night time or bad weather.
- Be patient when passing a bicyclist. Slow down and pass only when it is safe and do not squeeze the bicyclist off the road. If space permits, allow a clearance of three feet when passing.
- Look carefully for bicycles before turning right, merging into bicycle lanes and opening vehicle doors next to moving traffic.
- Respect the right-of-way of bicyclists because they are entitled to share the road with you.
- Slow down and be prepared to stop when turning or entering a crosswalk.
- Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. They are stopped to allow pedestrians to cross the street.
- Follow slower speed limits in school zones and in neighborhoods where there are children present.

