

CROSSWALK SAFETY



Pedestrian Safety Tips

When you are the pedestrian walking...

Always cross at marked crosswalks. You forfeit your rights as a pedestrian if you cross elsewhere.

Cross streets at a corner. While it may be tempting to cross mid-block, this is where most injuries occur. Using traffic signals and crosswalks is much safer, especially in high-traffic areas.

Look both ways. Look left, then right, then left again before crossing. Keep your eyes open as you cross and be aware that drivers might not see you even though you can see them.

Look before walking past stopped vehicles. Do not cross just because a driver waves you on. Be sure all lanes are clear first.

Be especially careful at intersections. This is where many drivers may fail to yield the right-of-way while turning onto another street. If there is a pedestrian signal, watch and follow the pedestrian signal in favor of the traffic signal.

Use sidewalks. When available, they are the safest place to walk. If no sidewalk is provided, it is usually safer to walk facing road traffic, as far left as possible, but use extreme caution. Stay off highways.

Be visible. Light colors and wearing clothes with reflective materials make you stand out. If you're in a very dark area, you might want to carry a flashlight as well, to help see where you're going and make yourself more visible.

Stay alert. There are a lot of **distracted drivers** on the road, so be aware at all times. Don't allow your vision to be blocked by clothing or hats or yourself to get distracted using your cell phone. Make eye contact with drivers to have a sense of whether they see you.

Always avoid texting and using the internet on your phone while walking. When walking or crossing a street, avoid cellphone use completely so you are observant of your surroundings and to reduce risks and dangers. Texting and walking is distracting and makes it difficult to watch for traffic and obstacles in your path.

DRIVER SAFETY

When you are the operator driving...

Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and at intersections. They always have the right-of-way.

Be prepared to stop at all marked crosswalks. Stay alert and reduce speed in areas with crosswalks.

Come to a complete stop if pedestrians are crossing or preparing to cross.

Wait until pedestrians have crossed at least one lane past the lane you are in before resuming travel.

Never pass another vehicle that has stopped or is slowing down at a crosswalk.

Be aware of children. They are often impulsive and can dart out in the street at any time. Follow the speed limit and be especially cautious around residential neighborhoods and **school zones**.

Reduce distractions. Spotting pedestrians requires your full attention. **Using a cellphone**, eating and drinking, talking to passengers, reading a map, or changing the radio station only makes your driving more **distracted**, difficult and dangerous. If you are using a navigation app on your phone, set your destination before you begin driving.

Follow the speed limit. Abiding by speed limits increases a driver's ability to see and watch for pedestrians, to adjust for curves or objects in the roadway and to avoid dangerous situations. Be sure to plan ahead to allow for extra time to get to your destination, take time to call ahead if you're running late and always follow the speed limit.

Never drink and drive. When you **drink and drive**, you're compromising cognitive ability and responsiveness, which increases your risk of hitting someone or having an accident.