



# be a safe pedestrian

Each year, on average, 2,700 pedestrians are injured in car crashes.\* We all need to do our part in reducing the number of crashes involving pedestrians since we share the roadways year-round.

Drive smart and walk smart to help keep yourself and everyone else safe.

## Pedestrian tips

- Always focus your full attention on what's happening on the roadway so you can see, hear and respond safely when you're crossing the street. Removing your headphones, and putting away your cellphone (or other gadgets) can make a difference.
- Make eye contact with drivers, so you both see each other.
- Always be cautious and pay attention to traffic. Drivers may not always stop or obey traffic signals.
- Use designated crossing points and follow pedestrian traffic signs and signals.
- Before stepping off the curb, look left and right for oncoming vehicles. Then look left again for vehicles that may be turning onto the roadway from beside or behind you.
- Wear bright or light-coloured clothing. When the sun starts setting or in bad weather, wear reflective material on your clothes (sleeves, shoes, cap or jacket).
- Where there are no sidewalks, always walk on the left side of the road facing traffic.

## Driver tips

- Always yield to pedestrians at intersections. You don't want to break the law.
- Be alert and scan left and right for pedestrians when you approach any intersection.

- If a vehicle is stopped in front of you or in the lane next to you, they may be yielding for a pedestrian, so be prepared to stop.
- Be aware of pedestrians who seem unsure or who may not be paying attention. They might dart out or wander onto the roadway.
- Always watch for pedestrians when you're backing up.
- Before you get into your vehicle, make it a habit to walk around it to ensure no small children are behind your vehicle.

## Pedestrian crosswalks

Flashing pedestrian crosswalk lights are becoming more common across B.C. Here are some tips for drivers and pedestrians:

- All pedestrian crosswalks operate the same whether or not they have flashing lights. Drivers are required to stop once someone has entered the crosswalk.
- The flashing lights help alert drivers that pedestrians are crossing or want to cross the street.
- The lights do not guarantee that vehicles will stop. It's important that drivers and pedestrians make eye contact with each other.

\*Injury count is rounded to the nearest hundred and based on a five-year average from 2006-2010.

## Tips to help keep our children safe

Post these safety tips somewhere in your home and review them with your children.

- Always walk on the inside edge of the sidewalk away from the road. This way, you're further away from the traffic.
- If there's no sidewalk, always walk facing traffic so you can see oncoming vehicles and drivers can see you.
- Dress to be seen. Bright clothes or clothes with reflective gear make it easier for drivers to see you during the day, night and during bad weather.
- Make sure you can hear signs of danger when crossing the street. Take your headphones off until you get to the other side.
- Cross only at corners or marked crosswalks. Never jaywalk.
- Parked vehicles in a parking lot or on the road can be dangerous. A driver may not see you between parked vehicles, and you may not see them moving. Stop and look left-right-left around the parked vehicle before crossing or moving through a parking lot.

### For students

Memorize the chorus of "Walk 'n' Roll," a song included in ICBC's K-3 curriculum:

**Wear something bright  
Look left and look right  
Wait for the light  
Make sure you're in the driver's eyesight**

To order free road safety teaching resources, visit [icbc.com/4teachers](http://icbc.com/4teachers).

## Rules for railway crossings

- Never play around railway crossings. They can be very dangerous.
- Trains always have the right-of-way. They don't slow down at crossings like vehicles do. Use designated railway crossings and follow all signals and signs.
- Look left-right-left before crossing. Be extra careful and watch your step when crossing railway tracks.

### Steps to crossing safely

1. Stop before stepping onto a road, driveway or lane.
2. Look in all directions — left-right-left and over your shoulder for vehicles that may be turning. Keep looking for approaching vehicles as you cross.
3. Listen for vehicles that you might not be able to see, but could be coming from a driveway, around a corner or over a hill.
4. Make eye contact with drivers, so you know they see you and they know you see them. Drivers don't always see you even if you see them.
5. Follow all traffic signs.
6. Walk, don't run across a street, driveway or lane.



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