

# Road Safety Week

# Smart drivers are



Being a smart driver is not just about having the latest gadgets, driving within speed limits and being skilled at parallel parking. It's about being responsible and considerate for everyone you share the road with, and doing everything you can to make roads safer for the people who are most at risk of getting hurt. More than a third of people killed and seriously injured on roads are those travelling on two wheels.

As a **Bike Smart** driver, here are a few simple steps you can take to make roads safer for people on bicycles and motorbikes.

- 1 Take time to look properly before you pull out at junctions.** Turn your head to look, don't just rely on a sideways glance. Bikes are smaller and narrower than cars and it can take longer for our eyes and our brain to notice that they are there. Turning your head and looking for longer will help you to spot bikes and will help you to judge their speed and distance, so you can pull out safely and avoid a crash.
- 2 Always stop behind the lines at a junction.** Never drive into a bike box if the traffic light is amber or red. Riders need this space to enable them to move safely through junctions. Don't drive or park in cycle lanes either.
- 3 Leave plenty of room when overtaking or passing bikes.** When passing a bike, you need to give as much space as you'd give another car when overtaking. This means at least 150 cm between you and the rider.
- 4 Slow down on rural roads.** Most crashes involving bikes happen on rural roads, and many of these are because drivers are travelling too fast. Slowing down will help you to take sharp bends more safely and you will be more likely to spot riders in front of you.
- 5 Drive slowly in places where people live.** Driving more slowly will give you more time to spot danger and more time to react. It also means you can stop a lot more quickly. 20mph is the right speed in places where people live, work and play. Slow traffic makes more people want to walk and cycle in their communities.
- 6 Avoid car dooring by using the Dutch reach to check for bikes.** Instead of using the hand nearest the door to open it, reach across with your opposite hand. This forces you to turn your head so you can check for bikes before you open the door.

Whatever vehicle you drive, taking a few simple steps to be Bike Smart will make you a much smarter driver, and will help make roads much safer for those on two wheels.



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