BIKE SMART

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO Cycling in NYC

nyc.gov/bikes
About Bike Smart

It’s never been better to ride a bike in NYC!

With more than 1,000 miles of bike facilities citywide and an expanding Citi Bike fleet, travel on two wheels is safe, easy, convenient and fun.

This guide contains everything you need to know to ride around town, ranging from basic tips for locking your bike to how to use the latest bike infrastructure.

Please pay particular attention to the explanations for safe riding. Our Vision Zero effort to lower traffic fatalities and injuries includes understanding the causes of collisions. Crashes are preventable. 89% of cyclist fatalities occur at intersections. Knowing how to safely turn, keep clear of large vehicle blind spots and ride predictably will help you protect yourself.
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NYC BIKING LAWS

Exercise caution and yield to pedestrians

Tenga precaución y cédale el paso a los peatones
加倍注意给行人让路

Stop at all red lights and stop signs

Deténgase en las luces rojas del semáforo y las señales de pare (STOP)
在號誌轉為紅燈後和 STOP (暫時停車)
標誌前停下

Ride in the direction of traffic

Circule en el sentido del tránsito
順著交通方向騎乘

Stay off the sidewalk unless you're under 13

No use las aceras a menos que tenga menos de 13 años de edad
離開人行道除非您是13歲以下
NYC BIKING LAWS

Use a white headlight and red taillight at night
Use una luz delantera blanca y una luz trasera roja por la noche
晚上使用白色頭燈和紅色尾燈

Use a bell to signal presence*
Utilice el timbre para indicar su presencia
使用鈴鐺提示他人
*Whistles and sirens do not meet NYC standards.

Do not wear more than one earphone while riding
Utilice únicamente un solo auricular cuando ande en bicicleta
騎車時切勿雙耳佩戴耳機

For more information about these and other laws go to nyc.gov/bikesmart.
Safety Tips

Follow these tips in addition to the NYC biking laws to ensure a safe ride every time.

**Put your phone away.**

Texting or talking while riding takes your eyes and ears off the road.

**Be mindful of mobility-impaired persons.**

Be predictable and respectful.

**Do what you can to be seen.**

In addition to your lights, wearing something bright or reflective is a good idea.

NYC DOT has distributed and fit over 150,000 free helmets since 2007. Call 311 to schedule a helmet fitting!
Helmets in NYC

Wear a helmet every time you ride. Helmeted cyclists are 72% less likely to sustain traumatic brain injury.

Helmets only work if you wear them correctly.

Wear it low and level.

Wear your helmet level on your head, about two finger-widths above your eyebrows.

Buckle the strap.

Always buckle the chin strap. The straps make a “Y” around your ears for a snug fit.

Do not wear a damaged helmet.

Replace your helmet after any crash and whenever you see signs of damage.

Helmets are required by New York State Law for cyclists ages 13 years and younger.
Look for those who cannot see you!

There are over 175,000 New Yorkers who are blind or visually impaired. As you ride, please be on the lookout for them. They might not see you coming.

Watch

Look for people using long white and red canes or with seeing-eye or guide dogs.

Wait

If they have started to walk, let them cross the street before moving. Do not bike around a person with a guide-dog, as it can startle the service animal.

Warn

Use your bell or call out so they know when you’re approaching.

Find out more about the #Cycleyes program at nyc.gov/accessibility.
Biking with Children

CROSS INTERSECTIONS SIDE-BY-SIDE

For children 13 and younger:

Your child should ride on the sidewalk while you ride on the street.

Let your child set the pace.

Children should stop at driveways and intersections.

Cross intersections side-by-side.

For children 14 and older:

Your child should ride in the street while you ride slightly behind.

Let your child set the pace.

Teach your child to make pedestrian-style turns (see page 19).

Cross intersections side-by-side.
New York City’s more than 1,000 miles of bike facilities are classified into four categories:

**Protected Bike Lane**

On-street protected bike lanes are protected from traffic by parked cars or physical barriers. Off-street bike paths exist along much of the City’s waterfront and in many parks.

**Bike Lane**

Bike lanes are painted onto the road, often next to a parking lane, and are marked with bike symbols. Some lanes have a painted buffer to further separate cyclists from traffic.

**Shared Lane**

Shared lanes are used by cyclists and motorists. They are marked by “sharrows” (bike symbols with chevrons) and signs.

**Signed Route**

Signed Routes are unmarked streets designated by "Bike Route" signage or a greenway medallion. Following the signs helps guide cyclists along a pre-established route.
Use the official NYC Bike Map to plan a route of connected lanes. View the map at nyc.gov/bikemap or request a printed copy by calling 311.
Navigating City Streets

You have the right to ride in the center of a travel lane when necessary for your safety.

**DO**

Be predictable.

Always use hand signals to communicate your intentions.

Look, signal and look again before you change lanes.

Take the lane.

Take the lane when preparing to turn, in areas with low visibility, and in places where the street is too narrow to allow a bicycle and a vehicle to travel safely side by side. Or where there is an obstruction, you need to go around.

**DON'T**

Do not weave from lane to lane.
Don't Get "Doored"

Riding close to parked cars leaves cyclists vulnerable to car doors that are opening. Keep your distance and stay alert.

**DO**

- Keep your distance at least 3 feet from parked cars.
- Watch parked cars carefully.
  - Watch car tail lights and taxi on/off duty lights to anticipate driver actions and exiting passengers.
- Ride on the center of the “Sharrows.”
  - On shared lanes, the bike symbol and chevron markings are often placed just far enough from the curb to help you avoid car doors that are opening.
Read the Road

The lines on the road can help you navigate the streets and share the road with other users.

In general, a dashed bike lane line indicates that cars may enter the bike lane.

At intersections, a dashed line with chevrons indicates that cars may turn across your path. Use the markings to guide you.

A mid-block dashed line with chevrons indicates an active driveway.

Two-way bike lanes are indicated by a dashed yellow center line and directional arrows.

Remember, cyclists must always travel with the direction of traffic, even in a bike lane.
Mixing Zones

Mixing zones are approaches to intersections where cyclists and turning vehicles merge.

**DO**

Look for turning traffic.
Merge in front of or behind cars.

Take the full lane as necessary.

**DON'T**

Do not hug the curb.

Do not pass on the left of a turning vehicle.
If vehicles are turning in front of you, move away from the direction of the turn.
Biking Near Large Vehicles

Trucks and busses have larger blind spots than cars. Never assume the drivers can see you.

DO

Position yourself well behind the truck when its turning.

Allow the truck to make the turn before advancing.

When riding with buses show caution.

They frequently pull to the curb.

DON'T

Do not squeeze between a truck and a row of parked cars.
Signal Your Intent

Passed from rear.

**Passing Vehicles**

1. Look over your shoulder for vehicles.
2. Signal before making a turn or changing lanes.
3. Look again to make sure it is safe.
4. Make your move.

**Passing Cyclists**

1. Look over your shoulder for vehicles or bikes.
2. Signal before changing lanes.
3. Announce your intention to pass by saying “On your left” or “On your right.”
4. Make your move.
Turns: Pedestrian Style

Turn with pedestrian traffic when the light changes if vehicle traffic is heavy or when you aren't comfortable changing lanes.

1. Pull over in front of the crosswalk and out of through traffic.

2. Wait for the green light and then move ahead.
Turns: Vehicular Style

Turn with vehicle traffic when it is safe to change lanes and you want to maintain your speed. This style is for more advanced cyclists.

1. Look and double-check for oncoming cars. Signal with your hands.

2. When it is safe, carefully move into the left-hand lane.

3. Complete your turn like any other vehicle.
Bike boxes are installed where two bike facilities intersect to increase the visibility of cyclists stopped at red lights. It also gives cyclists a better position to turn. Only use a bike box when you approach the intersection at a red light.

**Turns: Using a Bike Box**

1. Only enter the bike box on a red light.
2. Position yourself ahead of the cars.
3. Turn when the light turns green.
Lock It Right

DO

Use a U-Lock and/or heavy chain. More than one lock will help prevent theft.

Lock your wheels to your frame.

Lock all "quick release" parts.

Leave space for people to pass.

Use designated bike racks where available.

Look up!
Make sure you can’t lift your bike over the object to which it is locked.

DON’T

Do not lock to trees or subway railings.

Do not leave your bike for an extended period of time.

Do not block access.
Bring Your Bike Inside

If you work in a commercial office building with a freight elevator, the “Bikes in Buildings” law provides a way for your employer to request indoor access for your bicycle.

Follow these steps:

1. **Assess Needs**
   Employer assesses the number of bikes it would like to accommodate.

2. **Submit Tenant Request**
   Employer files a Tenant Request for bike parking with the Building Owner or Manager.

3. **Building Owner Implementation**
   Within 30 days of receiving Tenant Request, Building Owner must implement and post a *Bicycle Access Plan*
   or
   Request an exception for A) alternate bicycle parking facilities or B) the absence of freight elevators in the building within 15 days of receipt of Tenant Request.

For details and forms visit [www.nyc.gov/bikesinbuildings](http://www.nyc.gov/bikesinbuildings)
NYC Bike Resources

City of New York
NYC Dept. of Transportation Bicycle Program nyc.gov/bikes
NYC Dept. of City Planning nyc.gov/planning
NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation nyc.gov/parks
Citi Bike citibikenyc.com

Cycling Education and Advocacy Organizations
Bike New York bikenewyork.org
Bike the Bronx bikethebronx.com
Biking Public Project facebook.com/BikingPublicProject
Kidical Mass NYC facebook.com/kidicalmassnyc
Recycle-A-Bicycle recycleabicycle.org
QNS Bike qns.bike
Star Track Cycling startrack.nyc
Transportation Alternatives transalt.org

Cycling Clubs
Century Road Club Association (Competitive) crca.net
Fast & Fabulous (LGBT) fastnfab.org
Five Borough Bicycle Club (Recreational) 5bbc.org
Major Taylor Iron Riders (Recreational) majortaylorironriders.com
New York Cycle Club (Recreational) nycc.org
OUTCYCLING (LGBT) outcycling.org
Staten Island Bicycling Association (Recreational) sibike.org
WE Bike (Women) webikenyc.org
Weekday Cyclists in NYC (Recreational) weekdaycyclists.org

National Cycling Groups
Bikes Belong bikesbelong.org
Black Girls Do Bike blackgirlsdobike.com
League of American Bicyclists bikeleague.org
National Center for Bicycling and Walking bikewalk.org
Join the thousands of New Yorkers who ride a bike every day.

For a free NYC Bike Map call 311 or visit nyc.gov/bikes