

# Rules and tips for motorists

## Give cyclists room:

Cyclists often have to maneuver around hazards like gravel, train tracks, or glass.

- You are required by law to give at least 3 feet of clearance when passing a cyclist. Buses and other large vehicles must give 5 feet.
- Give cyclists room to maneuver if they need to take the lane for safety or in order to turn left.



## Bike lanes are for bikes:

- Do not drive or park in bike lanes.
- When turning right, check for cyclists, wait, and allow the cyclist to go through the intersection first.
- Do not use bike lanes as turning lanes.

## Other tips for motorists:

- Pay attention to the road and not your phone. Pull off the road to text or call.
- Look for cyclists riding alongside parked cars before opening your door.
- Do not use your horn when following a cyclist. The sudden blast can startle a cyclist and cause a crash.



## Contact Us

For more information on this and other department services, contact:

Pima County Sheriff's Department  
Community Resources Unit  
(520) 351-4615

or



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Pima County  
Sheriff's Department

*Keeping the Peace and Serving the  
Community Since 1865*

# BICYCLE SAFETY

## RIDE SMART AND BE SAFE



**Clarence W. Dupnik, Sheriff**

1750 E. Benson Highway  
Tucson, Arizona 85714

[www.pimasheriff.org](http://www.pimasheriff.org)



# What is a safe cyclist?

Bicycle safety means more than wearing a helmet. A safe cyclist knows and follows the rules of the road, reducing the risk of accidents. A safe cyclist is alert and aware of hazards, cars, and people around them.

Under Arizona law, cyclists generally have the same rights and responsibilities as motorists. Cyclists can receive citations just like motorists for violating the law.

## Getting ready to ride

**PROTECT YOUR BRAIN:** Children under 18 are required by law to wear a helmet anytime they ride a bicycle. Adults should also wear helmets whenever riding. It could be the difference between life and death.

Other things to check:

- Make sure your bike is adjusted to fit the rider and all its parts are in working order.
- Check tires for pressure, bulges, and cracks.
- Check your brakes.
- Have front and rear reflectors.
- Secure any loose items in a backpack or carrier.



# How should I ride?

## How and where to ride:

- Avoid wearing headphones; it's important to hear traffic and avoid dangerous situations.
- Ride with the flow of traffic, never against it.
- Use bike lanes when available.
- Ride as far to the right as possible when no bike lane is available.
- Do not ride on sidewalks.
- Keep at least a 5 foot distance from parked cars in case someone opens a door unexpectedly.



## Be predictable when riding:

- You're less likely to get hit when your movement doesn't take motorists by surprise. Let them know you're about to turn, move left or right by signaling with your arm.
- Always stop and check for traffic in both directions when leaving your driveway or side street.

## Cross carefully:

- Try to cross rail-roadtracks as close to a right angle as possible.
- When approaching grates or cattle guards, watch for gaps between the grates parallel to your direction of travel.
- Be careful of potholes, cracks, gravel and storm drains as it increases the chances of a fall.



# More rules and tips

## Taking the lane:

- Cyclists must stay as far to the right of the road as practical and safe but may take the lane for the following reasons:
  - if the lane is not wide enough for both a car and bike to safely share
  - to pass vehicles
  - to avoid parked cars, debris, or other obstacles
  - to make a left-hand turn
- Check behind to make sure it's safe, signal your intentions, and take the lane.
- Move as far to the right when possible to let following vehicles pass.

## Be visible:

- Wear white or brightly colored shirts.
- Consider reflective clothing or vests.
- For nighttime riding, you **must** use a white front headlight and a red rear reflector. A red rear taillight is highly recommended.



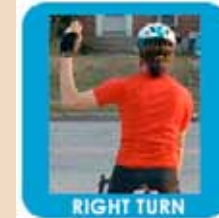
## Know Your Signals!



LEFT TURN



STOP



RIGHT TURN



RIGHT TURN ALTERNATIVE