

# PEDESTRIAN SAFETY TIPS

## USE THE CROSSWALK:

1. Cross the street only at intersections. Do not jaywalk.
2. Use marked crosswalks where available.
3. Do not cross in the middle of the street or between parked cars. Drivers are not expecting pedestrians to cross mid-block and you are more likely to be hit if you do.

## CROSS SAFELY:

4. Stop at the curb and look left, right, and left again before you step into the street. Be sure to evaluate the distance and speed of oncoming traffic before you step out into the street to ensure that a vehicle has adequate distance to stop safely.
5. Make eye contact with drivers when crossing busy streets and continue to watch out for traffic the entire time you are in the crosswalk. Your life may depend on it, regardless of whether or not you have the right-of-way.
6. At intersections, scan over your shoulder for turning vehicles.
7. Remember, don't take those "NO RIGHT TURN ON RED" signs for granted. Always check for turning vehicles.
8. Use extra caution when crossing multiple-lane, higher speed streets.
9. Children should not cross streets by themselves or be allowed to play or walk near traffic. Kids are small, unpredictable, and cannot judge vehicle distances and speeds.
10. Always hold your child's hand. Never allow a child under 10 to cross the street alone.
11. If your view of approaching traffic is blocked, move to where you can see (e.g., to the outside edge of a parked car), then stop and look left-right-left again.
12. When the streets are wet, allow extra time and distance for a vehicle to stop. Do not let umbrellas or jacket hoods block your view of approaching traffic.

## USE THE CROSSWALK SIGNALS:

13. If the intersection has a pedestrian signal, press the button and wait for the pedestrian signal to display the crossing indicator. Continue to be alert for traffic at all times while in the roadway and always check for turning vehicles.
14. A steadily illuminated, "orange hand" signal means do not cross; it is not safe for a pedestrian to enter the roadway. Pedestrians waiting to cross should wait for the next walk indicator signal in order to cross the street safely.
15. A flashing "orange hand" signal means that a pedestrian should not start to cross the roadway in the direction of the indicator. This indicates that there is probably not enough time left for you to cross the street safely.  
However, a pedestrian who has partially completed their crossing should finish crossing the street or proceed to a safety island in the same direction in which they were headed.

## MAKE SURE DRIVERS CAN SEE YOU:

16. Avoid walking in traffic where there are no sidewalks or crosswalks. If you have to walk on a road that does not have sidewalks, walk facing traffic.
17. Wear bright colors or reflective clothing if you are walking near traffic at night. Carry a flashlight when walking in the dark.
18. Always look for signs that a car is about to move (rear lights, exhaust smoke, sound of motor, wheels turning), and never walk behind a vehicle that is backing up.
19. Check to see if cars are entering or exiting parking lots or backing out of driveways.
20. Never run or dash into the street.

## FOR MORE PEDESTRIAN TIPS FOR CHILDREN, VISIT:

National Center for Safe Routes to School: Pedestrian Education Tips Sheets [<http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/program-tools/education-tip-sheets>]